

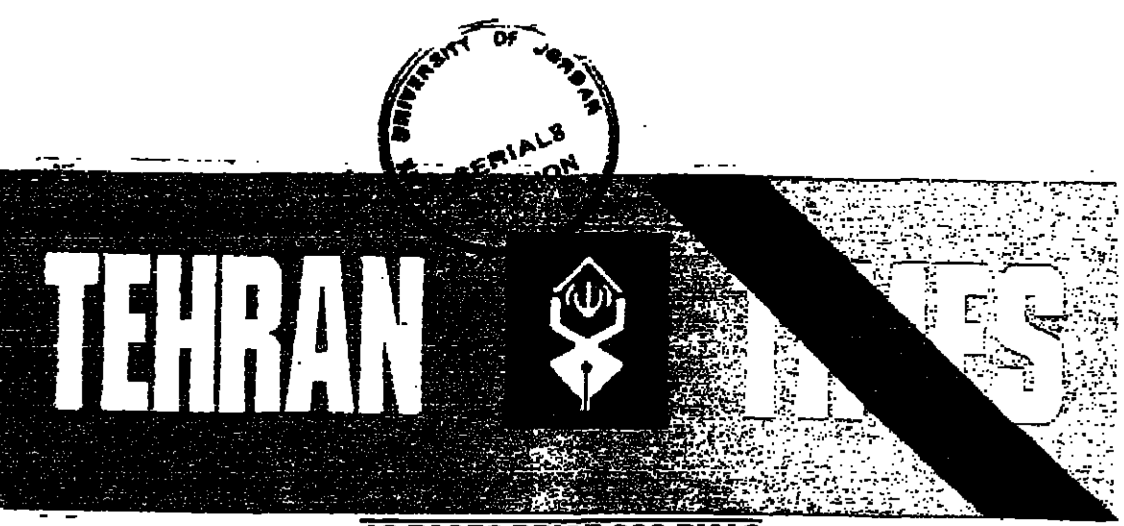
Irish Speaker Due in Tehran Tomorrow

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Speaker of Irish Senate Liam Naujhten is to pay an official visit to Iran on Monday at the invitation of the Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, an IRNA report said.

During his three-day visit, Naujhten is to discuss exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries with his Iranian counterpart.

He will also meet President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Forouzesh.



TEHRAN TIMES

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Agreement Reached on Lebanon Surveillance Group

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The five countries in charge of monitoring the cease-fire in southern Lebanon reached an agreement Friday on the terms of the mission, the State Department said.

Spokesman Glyn Davies said he did not have the details of the agreement, which will regulate the monitoring of the April 26 cease-fire between Israel and Lebanon.

The committee is composed of diplomats from France, Israel, Lebanon, the United States and Syria, who reached the agreement after a State Department meeting Friday. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Carter Slams Anti-Castro Law as "the Stupidest"



MONTREAL (AFP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter took aim Friday at the controversial new law aimed at tightening the U.S. embargo on Cuba by choking off foreign investment there.

"I think of all the things that have ever been done in my country, this is the stupidest," Carter said after receiving a humanitarian award by the International Convention of Lions Clubs meeting in Montreal this week.

The U.S. law has angered key U.S. allies in Canada, Mexico and Europe which have increasingly important investments on the island.

The United States has taken a (Contd on Pg.14)

Arab Foreign Ministers Take Tough Stand Against Israel

MUSCAT (AFP) — Arab foreign ministers meeting here Saturday toughened their stand towards Israel in reaction to the hardline statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week in Washington.

"The recent statements by the Israeli prime minister will be the focus of the discussions between the eight ministers, who reaffirm the same positions taken by the Arab summit in Cairo," Oman's Foreign Minister, Yussef ibn Alawi ibn Abdallah, told AFP.

Arab leaders at the June 22-23 summit in the Egyptian capital warned Israel's new rightwing government to pursue the policy of land-for-peace or face the end of normalizing relations with Arab governments.

Netanyahu told U.S. leaders in Washington this week that Israel would not turn over any more occupied land to Arabs and said the peace process should be based on security for peace.

"Our reaction (to Netanyahu's comments) are in line with the political declaration from the Arab summit in Cairo," Abdallah said.

Netanyahu infuriated Arab leaders by insisting Bait-ul-Moqaddas, the eastern part of which Israel occupied in 1967, would remain the Zionist state's eternal and undivided capital.

An Arab diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, said the eight countries would "take a communal decision towards the extremist policies" of Netanyahu.

The foreign ministers of Egypt and Syria, together with their counterparts from the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — are gathering in Muscat to discuss the latest developments in the Persian Gulf and Middle East.

It is the first meeting of the eight signatories to the Damascus Declaration, designed to promote Arab unity, since December last year.

China Warns of Difficulties on Test Ban Treaty

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese negotiator for the troubled Test Ban Treaty warned Saturday that Beijing would never sign an "unequal treaty" that gave "one very advanced country" exclusive power to launch nuclear inspections.

In a clear reference to the United States, the diplomat said "one very advanced country" was attempting to use its own monitoring technology as a sole criterion to initiate on-site inspections under the treaty.

"We cannot allow a few countries to be self-proclaimed international police and we can never accept this," said the diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"It is so obvious that these national technical means could be misused and the implication is clear that the future treaty could be unequal," he said.

But the diplomat, who will return to Geneva when negotiations resume on July 29, was still optimistic that this and other outstanding issues on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) could be resolved.

"We still have some time and we don't think this (deadlock) is the end of the world," he said.

Talks were temporarily suspended on June 28, mainly because India and a number of other non-declared nuclear nations insisted on making a link between a ban on testing and a concrete commitment to disarmament. (Contd on Pg.14)

Palestinian Authority: Peace Process in Danger

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — The Palestinian Authority warned Saturday that the peace process was in danger and criticized the United States for its "pro-Israeli" position.

"The peace process is in danger," Palestinian Finance Minister Zuhdi Nashashibi told reporters in reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington this week.

"This danger is heightened by the lack of determination by the United States with regard to Israeli instransigence," Nashashibi said after a joint meeting between the authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee.

According to Nashashibi, the authority "seriously studied" measures in reaction to Israel's new rightwing government and would take action at "the Palestinian, Arab and international levels."

Palestinian legislators urged President Yasser Arafat on Thursday to stop complaining about Netanyahu's hardline policies on the peace process and start doing something about it.

Palestinians were dismayed at Netanyahu's refusal to fix a date for the much-delayed troop redeployment from the West Bank town of Al-Khalil or for meeting Arafat, during his meeting with President Bill Clinton in Washington Tuesday.

The hardline Israeli leader also told the U.S. Congress on Wednesday that Bait-ul-Moqaddas would never be divided and insisted on the "right of Jews" to live anywhere, in a reference to his pledge to step up settlement building in the Palestinian territories.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said Friday Israel's new government has no right to close Palestinian offices in Bait-ul-Moqaddas and warned such a move violates Israel's commitments since 1993.

"We have agreements that they (Contd on Pg.14)



AL-KHALIL, West Bank (July 12): Palestinian shoppers leave a store as a youth fires his slingshoot towards Israeli soldiers positioned high in a nearby house in Al-Khalil. Life continues as usual with minor daily disturbances and with everybody waiting for a decision by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu concerning the future of this south West Bank town. For now, most agreements between Israel and the Palestinians have been put on ice because of the drastic political change in Israel after the elections. (AFP PHOTO)

Development Should Be Accompanied by Social Justice

SAVOJI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The U.S. should come to realize that other nations will not bow down before its bullying, sacrificing their national interests, Hojatolleslam Ali Movahedi Savoji, member of the Presiding Body of the Majlis, told the *Tehran Times*.

Condemning Washington's hostile policies towards Iran, Savoji stated that Europe's opposition to the U.S. trade embargo on Iran indicates that other countries will not follow what the U.S. would like to dictate to them.

As for priorities of the 5th Majlis, he said that elimination of poverty, supporting vulnerable strata and marching forward for spreading social justice are among the main objectives of the 5th Majlis.

Recalling the guidelines of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, wherein the Leader asked the parliamentarians to cooperate closely with the executive for the sake of country's further development and construction, Savoji stressed that all the parliamentarians will spare no effort to materialize this ideal.

Asked whether the Second Five-Year Development Plan can guarantee social justice in the society, Savoji said that the majority of parliamentarians believe that development and economic growth should be accompanied by social justice.

The 4th Majlis did its utmost to harmonize social justice with development and economic growth, Savoji said.

To this end the 4th Majlis not only allocated a considerable (Contd on Pg.14)

Russian Shelling Kills 47, Destroys 600 Homes

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian bombardment of Gekhi, a village in the southwestern lowlands of Chechnya, killed 15 civilians and 32 Chechen, a Chechen district official told Echo Moscow Radio Saturday.

Tokha Churchkhayev, head of the Urus Martan district administration, said 66 people were injured and more than 600 homes destroyed in the Russian air and artillery attacks, which began Tuesday.

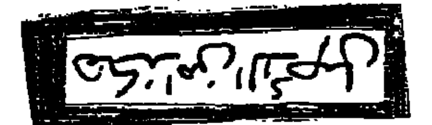
Russian forces launched a major land and air offensive against Chechen separatist strongholds Tuesday, only a week after President Boris Yeltsin's re-election.

The mountain village of Mekhketi and the area around Vedeno in the southeast were heavily bombed. (Contd on Pg.14)

Condolences

On the occasion of the departure anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S) and martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hassan (AS), the Second Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S), which fall on July 15, the Tehran Times staff extend their condolences to Muslims all over the world. The next daily's issue will appear on July 16. Editor

Please read the article on Page 15.



TEHRAN TIMES

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In The Name of Allah

And this is the path of your Lord, (a) right (path); indeed We have made the communications clear for a people who mind.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:126)

OPINION

International Legal System: Potent or Impotent?

The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague has issued international arrest warrants for Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander General Ratko Mladic.

The two Serbs are both charged with two counts of genocide. The first refers to the siege of Sarajevo in which more than 12,000 people died in over three and a half years as Bosnian Serb forces rained shells and sniper fire down on civilians.

The second count accuses the two men of masterminding a bloodbath at the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica where Mladic had promised civilians safety, but then proceeded to kill between 3,000 and 8,000 Muslim men and boys with knives.

Now we are faced with the absurdity of having international arrest warrants, but nobody wants to arrest them. Whenever you tell someone, "Now go and arrest Radovan Karadzic," he says, "I am busy," or, "It's not my job."

Whose job is it to arrest these two men? Is it IFOR's job? IFOR stands for 'implementation force' OR... It is the 'or' that is important here. IF the job is too risky for NATO's implementation force, the OR means 'or another force'.

IFOR says, "If we see them we will arrest them." That is, if Karadzic is just strolling in the park one day, having bought ice cream for his daughter, and we happen to see him, we will arrest him.

Here we are, having conducted an international tribunal on the second greatest human atrocity in this century [which might also mean 'in history']; we have pronounced the two men war criminals; we have issued arrest warrants for them. But we don't know whom to send out for the arrest.

Hardline Bosnian Serbs who see Karadzic and Mladic as heroes have warned of bloody consequences if IFOR makes any attempt to arrest them.

This illustrates relativity. A war criminal in one place is a hero in another. It also shows that we might have another war at hand: to gather the courage to send a group of people to arrest the two men whom an international tribunal has judged to be criminals, or to take the safe route, lay back, just call them criminals, and make a joke of our international legal system.

New Brazilian Ambassador Submits Credentials

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – New Brazilian Ambassador to Tehran Claudio Santos Rocha, here Saturday, submitted copies of his appointment to Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Referring to the potentials of Iran and Brazil, the Iranian foreign minister stressed the necessity of boosting mutual cooperation, an IRNA report said.

The ambassador also voiced his country's willingness to further expand relations and cooperation at international level with the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Kaveh Ahmadi — Tehran Times

Fazlallah Condemns Allegations on Iran's Nuclear Capacity

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The recent allegation of the Zionist Premier Benjamin Netanyahu at the U.S. Congress calling the Islamic Republic of Iran a threat to the world is absurd, said the prominent Lebanese Alim Allameh Muhammad Hussein Fazlallah on Friday.

According to an IRNA report, in his Friday prayer sermon Fazlallah stressed that the Islamic Republic does not produce nuclear weapons, adding that Tehran has opened its doors to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect all its facilities.

Turning to the Zionist regime's nuclear weapons, he said that Israel does not permit IAEA inspectors to visit its nuclear centers.

Fazlallah remarked that the hostility of the U.S. and the Zionist regime against Islamic Iran is due to Tehran's support for the ideals of the oppressed nations.

Iran has endangered the interests of the global arrogance through the Islamic Republic's overall support for oppressed nations in the region and in other parts of the world, he noted.

On the same day, the Head of the Islamic Towhid Movement, Sheikh Saeed Shaban, said in his Friday prayer sermons in Tripoli, north of Lebanon, that despite the Zionist regime's reconciliation with Arab



governments, Israel will not be secure in the occupied territories.

He urged Arab and Muslim nations to rise against and counter the unholy Zionist regime-U.S. coalition and called for the launching of a broad uprising in Palestine, Lebanon and other countries of the region.

IRANIAN ENVOY:

Defense Against Occupiers Legitimate Right of Lebanese People

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Islamic Republic of Iran will support the resistance of Muslim people of Lebanon in the face of Zionist regime's aggressive policies, stressed the Iranian Ambassador Homayoun Alizadeh Thursday night.

According to an IRNA report from Beirut, the ambassador also called the defense against the occupiers a legitimate right of Lebanese people.

After a meeting with prominent Lebanese Alim, Allameh Seyyed Muhammad Hussein Fazlallah, Alizadeh told IRNA that the Islamic Republic of Iran has from the outset warned of the provocative and aggressive nature of the Zionist regime. With the coming to power of Likud Party, he added, the real picture of this regime has been revealed.

Responding to the allegations of Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Iran supports terrorism, the Iranian ambassador said, "If peoples' resistance for liberation of their homeland and safeguarding of their independence is called terrorism, then all countries of the world including the U.S. and France are terrorists, because they have obtained their independence through struggle," he remarked.

He added that real terrorism is manifest in the nature of the Zionist entity which spares no stone unturned for its illegitimate survival, and indulges in the massacre of innocent people including children and women.

Promotion of Iran-Daghestan Cooperation Called For

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Expansion of mutual cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Daghestan was reviewed in a meeting between the Iranian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Mehdi Safari and Head of the State Council of the Republic of Daghestan, Mohammad Mohammadov, on Friday.

According to IRNA, Safari stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran views Daghestan, within the framework of the Russian Federation, as its closest friend and is fully ready to expand political, economic and cultural relations with the republic.

He added that Iran and the Russian Federation have the political resolve to promote and deepen mutual relations, and that expansion of cooperation with the republics of the Caspian Sea region and the Volga Basin is of special significance and priority.

Safari said that Iran and Russia share common stands towards the Caspian by supporting peace and stability in the region.

He voiced Iran's readiness for establishing direct air and sea links with Daghestan, expanding cooperation in tourism, exchanging goods and cooperating in the non-oil and non-metal areas.

Mohammad Mohammadov in reply called expansion of relations between Iran and Daghestan as "beneficial for both Iran and the Russian Federation."

He said, "We are happy with the common stands of the two countries towards the Caspian Sea problems", announcing that expansion of relations between Iran and Daghestan is vital.

Mohammadov added that as part of the Russian Federation, Daghestan enjoys special potentials for establishing relations with foreign countries.

"One of the policies of my government is to revive spiritual values in Daghestan," he said, stressing that in this line expansion of relations with Islamic Iran occupies a favorable place.

The head of Daghestan State Council said that cooperation with Iran in the fields of oil exploration and shipping is of great significance for Daghestan, and that expansion of commercial ties between the two sides should be given sufficient importance.

In a separate meeting on Friday, the Iranian ambassador to Russia met with the Prime Minister of Daghestan, Abdur-Razzaq Mirza Bekov, and surveyed ways for expansion of mutual cooperation.

Iran's Population Growth Rate Cut by Half Since 1989

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Iran has managed to decrease its population growth rate by half since the year 1368 (March 21, 1989-March 20, 1990) by spending Rls.20 billion on the average on family planning programs annually.

The remark was made by Head of the Board of Directors of the Family Planning Association Dr. Hossein Malek Afzali at the opening ceremony of the first meeting of the association on Saturday on the occasion of the World Population Day.

Malek Afzali said that 7.2 million people, including 740,000 men, were benefitting from family planning services in Iran.

Meanwhile, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) representative to the



Islamic Republic of Iran said that based on the UN estimates, world population is expected to stand between 7.1 and 7.8 billion by 2015,

(Contd on Pg.14)

Iran to Organize Int'l Training Courses in Seismology

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Iran has planned to launch regular training courses for seismologists from regional states, it was announced here on Saturday.

Head of Tehran-based International Institute for Seismology and Seismographical Engineering Mohsen Ghafouri said in an interview with IRNA that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has agreed to cooperate with Iran in its plans.

He said the institute has also joint research projects with the regional states in the field of seismology.

Ghafuri said his institute is working with experts from Japan, Germany, Italy, France, Australia, Switzerland, Russia, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Macedonia on research studies concerning seismology.

Sarmadi, Kenyan Foreign Minister Discuss Bilateral Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Issues of mutual interest of Tehran and Nairobi were discussed in a meeting between the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Communications Affairs Morteza Sarmadi and the Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka on Friday.

According to IRNA, in the meeting Sarmadi conveyed a verbal message from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Kenyan counterpart.

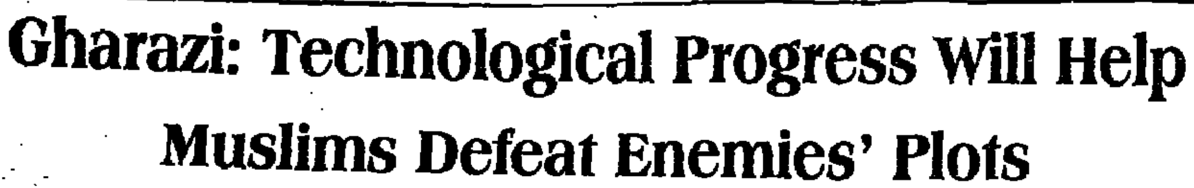
Terming the two countries relations good, Sarmadi expressed hope that expansion of Iran-Kenya cooperation in different areas will set an example for other African countries.

Since both countries enjoy immense potentials in various agricultural, industrial and trade fields, excahnge of delegations between the two states is necessary, the Iranian official reiterated.

Expressing his satisfaction over presence of Iranian delegation in Kenya, Musyoka called for promotion of bilateral relations.

He further said that opening of an Iranian exhibition in Nairobi will make Kenyan people familiar with Iranian products.

The Kenyan minister praised the Islamic Republic's stance and role in the Non-Aligned Movement.



Gharazi: Technological Progress Will Help Muslims Defeat Enemies' Plots

ISFAHAN (IRNA) -- Iran's Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Mohammad Gharazi, said here Friday that development is the only solution for Islamic countries to escape from the clutches of colonialists.

Gharazi, who made the statement in this historical city, added that Islamic countries should be equipped with the weapon of technology so that they can meet their own needs and speak in the language of technological progress to the enemies of Islam.

He was speaking as a pre-sermon speaker at the Friday prayer congregation here, attended by ministers and delegation heads of the 45 countries which participated in the telecommunication conference of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The 2-day conference wound up in Tehran Thursday evening.

Gharazi saying that Islamic Iran today was a model for Islamic countries, said, "If you rely on yourselves and your people, you will not lag behind other countries, and will be capable of standing against your enemies.

"As the political axis of the world of Islam, Iran will not allow the U.S. to chart out plans for Islamic countries. We will not rest until we cut off the hands of the U.S. and the Zionist occupiers, and our reconstruction and progress will be a political and military response to them," he added.

The OIC delegates performed their Friday congregational prayers with the multitude of other local worshipers here.

In his Friday prayer sermons, Hojjatoleslam Abbas Ali Ruhani in part referred to the urgency for solidarity of Muslim nations, saying that what the Muslim world needed to appreciate was its native capacity to stand on its own, independent of foreign help.

Addressing himself to the visiting delegates, he said Muslim governments must make a firm effort to rid themselves of technological dependence on domineering non-Muslim nations in all areas, telecommunications being one of them.

Project Gets Rls.9bn Credit

MASHHAD, Khorasan prov., (IRNA)– Some Rls. nine billion in credit has been allocated to a project to equip the 'Sangan Khowaf' iron mines here, a local official said Saturday.

Ali Asghar Erfanian, the official in charge of the project, added that a sum of Rls.298 billion will be spent on equipping the mines till the Iranian year, 1378.

At the exploration stage Rls.11 billion has been spent, said Erfanian adding that the mines will supply the Khorasan steel complex with two million tons of iron ore every year.

The official put the proven deposits of the mines at 330 million tons and said that the project is to create 1,200 direct and 3,000 indirect job opportunities in the province.

According to Erfanian, the project will save $80 to 100 million a year for the country, once operational.

IMF Approves $1.4bn Credit for Venezuela

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The International Monetary Fund approved a $1.4 billion credit for Venezuela on Friday, aiding the country as it tries to make the transition to a free market economy.

President Rafael Caldera undertook an economic shock program this year, lifting foreign exchange controls and price controls he imposed two years ago to try to control inflation. For decades until the mid-1980s, Venezuelans had been accustomed to generous subsidies and windfall oil profits. Lower oil prices, combined with government mismanagement and corruption, sent the country into crisis.

Venezuela hoped for about $3 billion in loans from the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to help it through the austerity program.

The IMF loan "strengthens the outlook for long-range growth made possible by the adjustments and structural reforms applied to Venezuela's economy," Venezuelan Finance Minister Luis Matos Azocar said Friday.

The IMF board promised to develop a program that would help Venezuela make the rapid change to a free market economy with the least amount of harm to its people.

8,000 Tons of Portland Cement Exported Since May

TEHRAN (IRNA) -- Some 8,000 tons of portland cement, produced by a cement factory in Saveh, Central Province, have been exported since the plant was put into operation in May 1996, said managing director of the factory on Saturday.

Speaking to IRNA, Behrooz Zandi added that the cement consignment, worth $722,000, was exported to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Armenia.

The managing director of the factory predicted that 70 percent of the plant's output would be exported.

He put the total capacity of the factory at 160,000 tons a year, saying that to set up the factory some $32 million has been invested by the Islamic Development Bank and Rls.60 billion by domestic sources.

Preliminary studies indicate that the reserves of the mines that feed the plant are enough for about 100 years.

National Industries Organization of Iran owns 51 percent of shares of the factory which has been totally built by local experts.

Vietnam to Repay Its Debt to Russia With 52 Ships

VLADIVOSTOK (IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA) -- For the first time in the long practice of friendly relations between the two countries, Vietnam will repay its debts to the former Soviet Union not only with rice, fruit and meat but also with sea-going ships built at Vietnamese shipyards, a spokesmn at the Far Eastern Merchant Marine Research and Design Institute, told ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

The institute has sent an application to the Russian Ministry of Transport for 52 Vietnamese transport ships which have been made according to designs provided by Russian engineers.

1st Coal Tar Refinery to Go on Stream in Isfahan

TEHRAN (IRNA) -- Iran's first coal tar refinery will become operational with an annual capacity of 100,000 tons in Isfahan in a near future.

To construct the refinery, $40 million and Rls.40,000 million were invested by the Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation and Isfahan Steel Mill.

The output, to be used in many industries, will save the country more than $25 million in hard currency annually. The refinery has been installed by Iranian experts.

Iran, China to Further Expand Bilateral Cooperation

BEIJING (IRNA) – Iranian Ambassador to Beijing, Seyyed Hossein Mirfakhar and Chinese Deputy Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister, Lee Go Hua, here on Friday surveyed the ways for holding the ninth Iran-China Trade, Technical and Economic Cooperation Commission.

The two sides evaluated the role and effect of the commission in strengthening and expanding mutual cooperation as "very important."

The Iranian envoy pointed out that many of the agreements reached at the 8th Joint Commission of the two countries have been put implemented, and expressed hope that the ninth joint commission which is to be held in Tehran in autumn would contribute to further expansion of bilateral cooperation.

The Chinese deputy foreign trade minister voiced the readiness of his country for expansion of cooperation in hitherto unexplored areas.

"We should make efforts and plan for better success of the ninth commission," Lee stressed.

Lang is due to meet other European foreign and trade ministers in Brussels next week to consider possible retaliation against the extra-territorial legislation aimed to punish foreign investors in Cuba.

European Commission President, Jacques Santer, is also expected to write a strong protest letter to Clinton ahead of his deadline on Tuesday to decide whether to waive provisions of the bill.

The British minister has also received strong support from the press to make a stand against Washington over the Cuba ban, fearing that failing to do so would encourage the U.S. to impose more laws on the rest of the world.

The independent newspaper described what the U.S. was trying to do was a "kind of bullying" that flies in the face of international law.

Domestic political whim cannot just substitute for procedure and negotiation, it said, adding that the U.S. was only one party to international law" not its arbiter."

The Guardian saw the U.S. trying to subvert its neighbor, saying that what the CIA's mercenaries could not achieve in Cuba was now being sought by economic means.

The Financial Times was alarmed by the long arm of the U.S. being a manifestation of a policy trend to which, it said, other governments needed to give a "firm and vigorous response."

It urged the EU, as the world's largest trading power to present a united front to what U.S. legislators appeared to have overlooked that America was part of an integrated global policy on which its own prosperity increasingly depends.

Iran's Trade Fair Opens in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (IRNA) -- The first exclusive Iranian trade exhibition in Bosnia opened in Sarajevo on Friday, with 50 Iranian companies displaying a wide variety of their products ranging from industrial equipment to textiles, foodstuff and traditional crafts.

The opening ceremony was attended by Bosnian ministers of foreign affairs, trade, culture, interior, industries, energy and mines, and foreign ambassadors and people of Sarajevo.

Several Iranian officials including some Majlis deputies and Deputy Commerce Minister Ali Saeedlou were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Saeedlou, who is also head of Iran's Export Promotion Center, in his address at the inaugural ceremony, referred to the friendly relations between the two countries and stressed the necessity for expansion of bilateral ties in the economic and trade fields.

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Sarajevo, Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, welcomed the exhibition and called it an important step in expansion of relations between the two countries, especially in economic field.

The week-long exhibition is being held on a 1000-square meter plot.

New Tax Legislation to Be Adopted in Russia Soon

MOSCOW (IRNA/ITAR-TASS/ACSNA) – Tax legislation should be one of the first steps to be taken by Russia's new government, said the Deputy Chief of the Governmental Working Center of Economic Reform Mstislav Afanasyev adding that the new legislation should comprise shuttle-trade as well.

According to him, the new act will involve a wide range of issues, including exports taxes to be levied on shuttle-trade.

It is still premature to speak of the content of the document, but it is sure to be a component of a preparatory stage of tax reform aiming to increase the share of taxes charged on individuals, and to put in order customs regulations.

20 Million Covered by Social Security Service in Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) -- In his pre-sermon speech at the Friday prayer at Tehran University, Managing Director of the Social Insurance Organization, Mehdi Karbasian, offered a report on the national social security services on the occasion of the Social Security Week.

Karbasian said that about 20 million Iranians were protected by social security services.

He said the Social Insurance Organization also placed a priority on increasing the monthly retirement pay of retirees in a bid to fight poverty at the national level.

Earlier, member of the Teachers Association of the Qom Theological School, Hojjatoleslam Massoudi lectured to congregation on self-control and restraining of vanity and carnal desires.

He said the right path for the soul is that indicated to man by the Holy Qoran, and the curbing of the animal instinct in man, removes many of the social evils.

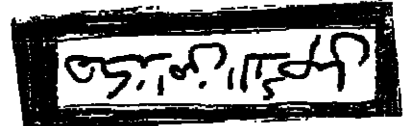


TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina: U.S. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor (C) is guided past an honor guard by U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith (R), commander of the NATO forces in Bosnia, upon his arrival at Tuzla Airbase, home to Task Force Eagle, July 12. Kantor coming from Sarajevo, visited the U.S. IFOR troops and met with local authorities in Tuzla on the second day of a tour of Bosnia and Croatia. (AFP PHOTO)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

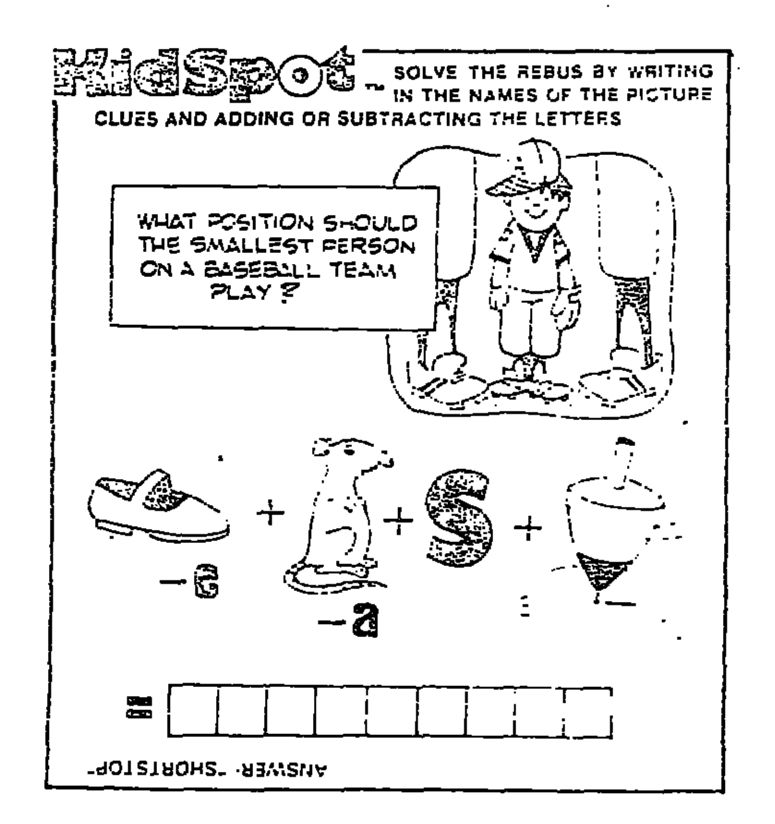
The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Saturday, July 13.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,388	1,396	2,383	2,397
Austria	schilling	163	164	279	281
Belgium	(100)francs	5,581	5,613	9,577	9,625
Canada	dollar	1,276	1,284	2,190	2,203
Denmark	krone	298	300	513	515
France	franc	340	342	583	586
Germany	mark	1,150	1,157	1,973	1,983
Holland	guilder	1,025	1,031	1,759	1,769
Italy	(100)liras	114	115	195	196
Japan	(100)yen	1,586	1,595	2,724	2,737
Sweden	krone	261	263	449	451
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,714	2,729	4,660	4,684
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015





CHILDREN'S PAGE



What Is the Zodiac?

In ancient times, when people looked up at the sky at night, they observed many bright stars arranged in a certain pattern or group. Each group is called a constellation. It means a group of stars. Studies of movements of these constellations led to the discovery that they move in space in fixed directions. The number of constellations visible during the year at different times was found to be 12. The sun and the moon were always seen to rise and set in the same direction in which these twelve constellations were located.

These 12 constellations were called signs of the zodiac.

The hypothetical part of the sky through which the sun, the moon and the planets seem to be passing is called the zodiac. Each of the 12 constellations situated at distance of 30° is named as a different sign of the zodiac. This way 12 signs of the zodiac have come into existence. Each sign is connected with one constellation and the shape of each constellation resembles certain earthly body or substance. They also tell about the sun every month. The names of these signs and the position of the sun are as follows: —

(i) **Aries** — The Ram	21 March to 19 April
(ii) **Taurus** — The Bull	20 April to 20 May
(iii) **Gemini** — The Twins	21 May to 21 June
(iv) **Cancer** — The Crab	22 June to 22July
(v) **Leo** — The Lion	23 July to 22 August
(vi) **Virgo** — The Virgin	23 August to 22 September
(vii) **Libra** — The Balance	23 September to 23 October
(viii) **Scorpio** — the Scorpion	24 October to 21 November
(ix) **Saggitarius** — The Archer	22 november to 21 December
(x) **Capricorn** — The Goat	22 December to 19 January

Mohammad Kushanfar
Grade 3
From: Tehran

Blowing Hot Air Into Balloons

Buy balloons of different sizes and shapes from a shop. Blow air into them one by one. Tie the mouth of each with a long thread. Hold the ends of the thread together. Discuss with your friends the sizes and shapes of the balloons and the air inside.

Select an oval-shaped balloon. Before blowing air into it, find out whether there is any air inside. What experiement would you like to do? Try this. Take a glass of water. Keep the mouth of the balloon inside water (about 2 cm deep). Squeeze the other part of the balloon gently keeping the mouth under water. Watch for a few air bubbles coming out of water.

Blow air into another oval-shaped balloon as much as possible. Hold the mouth tightly with one hand. Rub the inflated balloon with your fingers. Do you get peculiar sounds?

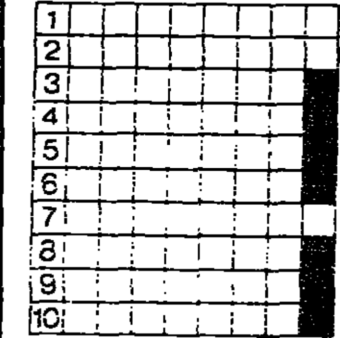
Can you produce different types of sounds? What could be the possible reason for getting sounds? What is the role of the stretched out synthetic rubber? What is the role of the air inside the balloon?

Keep the mouth region of a well-inflated oval balloon on your table holding it tightly. Release the air all of a sudden by removing your fingers. Watch what happens. Repeat the experiment a couple of times. What can you infer from this?

Select a medium sized narrow-mouthed bottle. Fix one of the oval-shaped balloons used by you for the experiments so that its mouth adheres tightly to that of the bottle. Gently immerse the bottle upto the neck in a vessel containing hot water. (Beware the bottle may crack if dipped into very hot water suddenly). See what happens to the balloon. Take off the bottle and keep it outside on the table. See what happens. What can you infer?

Can you get any other idea for doing a similar experiment mentioned above? Here is a suggestion. Keep the bottle with the uninflated balloon tied up to its mouth in water in an aluminium vessel. Gradually heat the water on your stove with the help of your mother or father. When the balloon on top of the bottle stands erect, lower the heat. See what happens. Raise the heat gradually again. Watch the balloon on top of the bottle. Discuss your findings with your friends.

To solve this puzzle, you have to find the right past participle to fill the gap in each sentence. Choose from the list on the right.



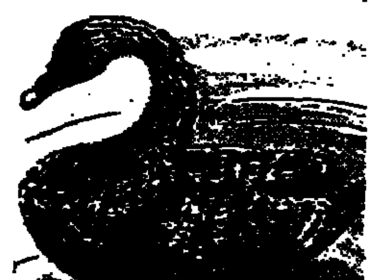
arrived
plugged
escaped
finished
driving
stopped
returned
written
learning
waiting

1 When I had . . . reading, I turned out the light and went to sleep.
2 We reached Tom's house before he had . . . home.
3 The author had already . . . three novels when this one appeared.
4 We started playing again as soon as the rain had . . .
5 Ann had been . . . half a hour when her friend at last arrived.
6 Though I was late getting to the station, the train had not yet . . .
7 He said that he had been . . . English for nearly four years
8 I had been . . . several minutes before I realized I had a flat tyre.
9 The record player did not start because I had not . . . it in.
10 The officials discovered the plot before the prisoners had . . .

Answer: 1.finished 2. returned 3. written 4.stopped. 5.waiting. 6.arrived. 7.learning. 8. driving. 9.plugged. 10. escaped.

NATURE WATCH

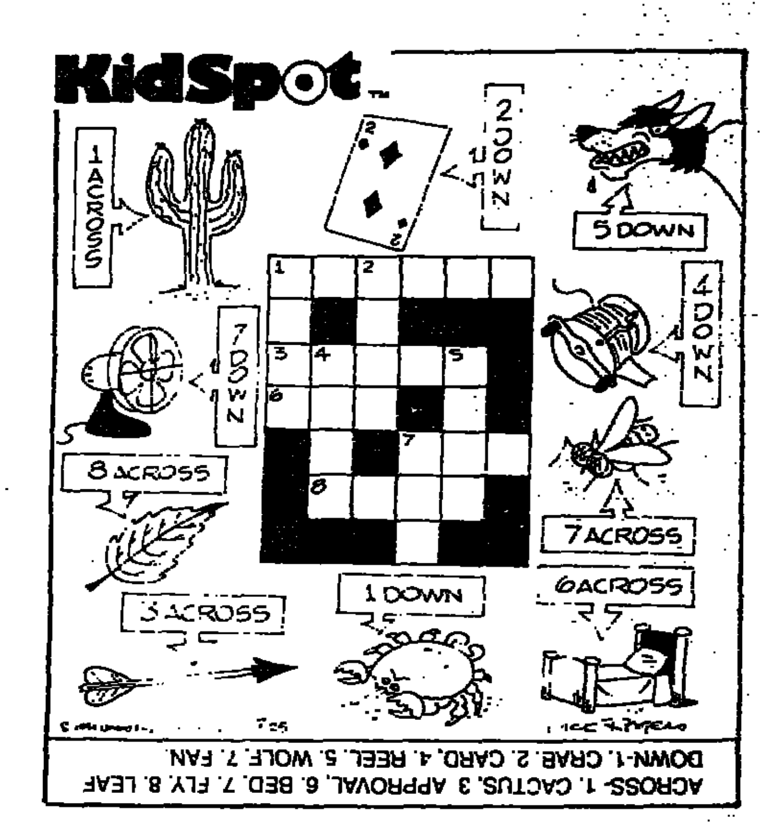
Australia's Black Beauty



THE Coscoroba swan of South America has white feathers with black wing tips. The black-necked swan, as its name suggests, has a black neck and head. The rest of its feathers are white.

The only swan that is black all over is the black swan of Australia.

All these swans are found only in the southern hemisphere, in the wild. There are four species of swan in the northern hemisphere and all of them are fully white.



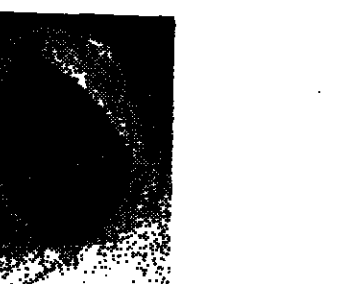
Congratulations



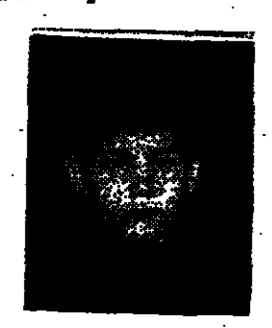
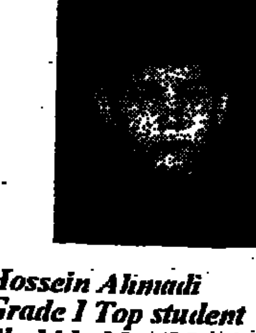
Nastaran Mehdizadeh
Grade 3 Top student
Niayesh Elm. School



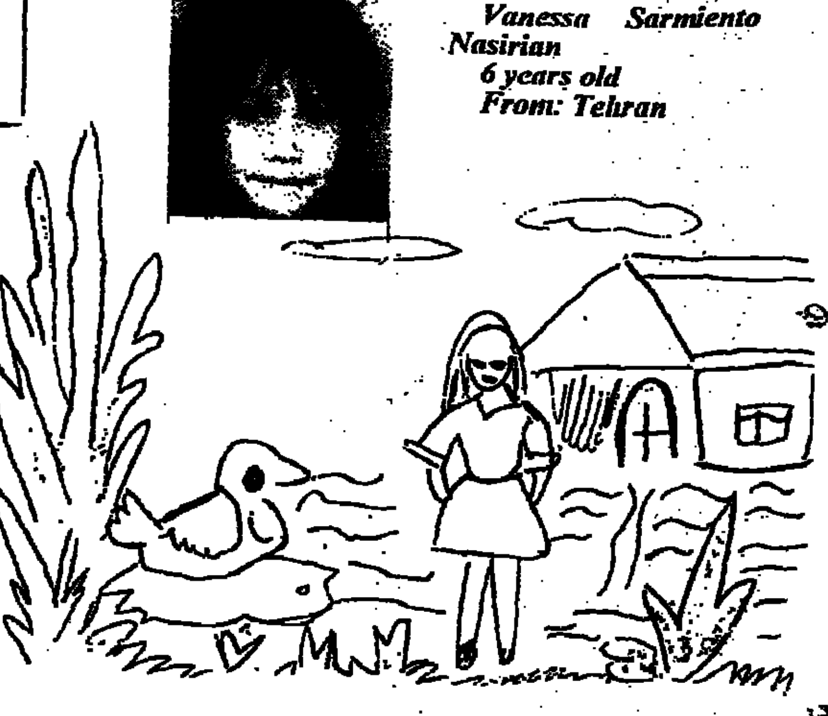
Niloufar Ramezani:
Grade 3 Top student
Ostad Shahriar
Primary School

Tahereh Ahmadi
Grade 2 top student
Shahid Mahallati Elm. School

Hossein Ahmadi
Grade 1 Top student
Shahid Motahhari Elm. School



Vanessa Sarmiento Nasirian
6 years old
From: Tehran

Jordan, Bull Agree on $25m Contract

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan will be the NBA's highest-paid player - at least for one year.

The League's Premier player and the Chicago Bulls agreed to a one-year contract Friday worth at least dlrs 25 million. It is the richest one-year contract in team sports history.

Terms of the contract were not divulged by the Bulls, but a team source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, told the Associated Press the deal was worth at least dlrs 25 million. The contract still has not been signed.

While his agent David Falk and Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf were negotiating over the phone in conversations that Reinsdorf said took less than an hour, Jordan was playing in a celebrity golf tournament in Stateline, Nevada.

Jordan's career of unparalleled excellence with the Chicago Bulls has featured four NBA titles, eight scoring championships, four MVP awards and a worldwide following.

He already makes an estimated dlrs 40 million in off-the-court endorsements but his contract had been a bargain for the Bulls, compared to other salaries for lesser players. Jordan made about dlrs 4 million in salary last season.



LONDON (AP) — The sight of Olympic 100 meter champion Linford Christie beaten in a low-quality field reduced the 11,000 British fans to stunned silence.

Organizers of the Securicor games at Crystal Palace had billed the men's 400 meter race as an unofficial contest to see who's the best British runner at that distance.

They didn't want Michael Johnson, world champion at 200 and 400 meters, to steal the show. so they told the American he couldn't run at that distance.

Another American, Darnell Hall, did it instead.

After Du'aine Ladejo dropped out of the race with a sick stomach just as the runners were down on their blocks, Hall left the others behind as well. He clocked 44.68 ahead of the first Brit home, Roger Black, who had 44.88.

Michael Green of Jamaica, who finished a distant second to Christie at the Commonwealth Games two years ago, edged him in a photo-finish. Running into a headwind, both runners labored to 10.26.

Christie, who only decided to defend his title at Atlanta 11 days ago after a year's indecision, must be wondering whether he made the right move after four defeats in a row.

While Christie is limping toward Atlanta, hurdler Allen Johnson is in full flow.

The world champion bolted from the blocks to win the 110-meter race in 13.20 seconds, 0.31 faster than second place Jack Pierce.

The world champion has won three of his four races in Europe and now wants to put all the good parts of his performances together.

King's Widow, Son to Carry Torch

Atlanta (Reuter) — The widow and son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King will carry the Olympic flame next Friday on the last day of its 15,000-mile (25,000-km) relay across the United States.

Coretta Scott King will pass the torch to her son Dexter in front of the King Chapel on the Atlanta campus of the mainly Black Morehouse College, relay organisers said in a statement.

The Olympic Games will open later the same day, when the torch is carried in to the stadium and the flame is transferred to the Olympic cauldron. Details of the lighting ceremony and the final torch bearer remain a closely guarded secret.

Dexter King recently succeeded his mother as chief executive of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Centre for Nonviolent Social Changes.

The institution, next to the Ebenezer Baptist Church where King preached, is devoted to the civil rights leader's message of racial equality until his assassination in 1968.

Seles, Davenport Give U.S. Lead Over Japan

NAGOYA, Japan (AFP) — Monica Seles made a Fed Cup debut in style here on Saturday, leading the United States to a 2-0 lead over Japan with Lindsay Davenport in the world group semi-finals.

The world co-number one, who has been struggling with a shoulder problem throughout this season, showed no ill-effects from the injury, scoring a 6-2, 6-2 win over Japan's number two player, Ai Sugiyama in the second singles match.

Sunday will see the two reverse singles, followed by a doubles in the best-of-five women's team competition.

In the opening match on the Indoor Supreme Court at the Rainbow Hall in Nagoya, Davenport took a 6-2, 6-1 victory to shock Japan's number one Kimiko Date.

Date, who upset world number one Steffi Graf to beat Germany in the first round, took the first two games in the first set and the first of the second set before losing six consecutive games in each of them.

Police Make Sweep to Clean Up Main Olympic Area



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 12): Police patrol the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, in Atlanta, the Olympic venue for swimming events. The centennial Olympic Games are scheduled to open July 19 in Atlanta.

(AFP PHOTO)

Atlanta (AP) — Police made 35 arrests during a special crime sweep around the Atlanta University campus, one of the Olympics' main gathering spots.

Meanwhile, security officers said Thursday there was no indication that terrorists are targeting the games, though they conceded that some fake threats have been made against the organizing committee.

Police chief Beverly Harvard, during a briefing on Olympic security measures, said that state and local officers took part in the Wednesday night crime sweep around the Atlanta University campus.

The campus, a group of colleges located in the middle of one of Atlanta's most crime-ridden neighborhoods, is the site of field hockey and basketball competition, serves as a training site for some athletes and provides housing for the media.

Crime is a prime concern of visitors coming to Atlanta for the games. The city has one of the highest violent crime rates in the country.

Harvard's spokeswoman, Jan Northstar, said the crime sweep resulted in 35 arrests, though she was not sure of the specific charges.

Harvard downplayed reports that the police force was understaffed with the opening ceremonies only a week away. While conceding that some 200 positions had not been filled, she said those were mostly extra jobs created by federal grants.

The most nightmarish scenario for security officers would be a terrorist attack similar to the Oklahoma City bombing a year ago or the bombing of a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia two weeks ago.

Richard Shines in Tour But Riis Still in Command



LE PUY, France (Reuter) — Tour de France leader Bjarne Riis allowed Swiss Pascal Richard to win the 12th stage on Friday, content in the knowledge it made little difference to the leading overall standings.

Dane Riis, who took the Yellow Jersey after Monday's ninth stage, enjoyed a quiet day in the pack, which ended the day's hilly 143.5-km ride from Valence more than 15 minutes behind a breakaway group of nine riders including Richard.

Riis, still 40 seconds ahead of second-placed Evgeny Berzin of Russia overall with Swiss Tony Rominger third a further 13 seconds back, watched out for attacks by his rivals in the pack but none of them tried their luck.

The group, including experienced riders Dane Jesper Skibby and Dutchman Erik Breukink, built a comfortable lead in the picturesque Ardeche mountains on a hot and sunny day.

Riis and his team mates in the Telekom stable, knowing the riders in front were all way back in the overall standings, concentrated on keeping an eye on the men close to the overall lead.

New Format Launched in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuter) — Cricket launched an ambitious campaign on Friday to boost its popularity in Asia with a flurry of big hitting under revised rules aimed at making the game more action-packed.

The inaugural Super Eights in Malaysia, launched by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) and featuring a host of top players, produced the expected feast of runs on the opening day of the eight-a-side event.

Opener Matthew Hayden set the Tone by smashing an unbeaten 66 as the second-string Australia a side hammered a massive 205 for seven from their maximum 14 overs against India.

The tournament, opened by the King of Malaysia Tuanku Jaafar who is also the patron of the local Controlling Cricket Board, is being played on an artificial wicket after rain affected the Turf pitch.

Each match in the six-team, three-day tournament lasts about two hours, about a quarter of the time it takes to complete a 50 overs a side game.

Under competition rules, shots which clear the boundary are worth eight runs instead of the traditional six and each player, except the wicketkeeper, must bowl at least one over.

A batsman must also retire if he scores 50 runs but he can return to the crease if all the other batsmen have been dismissed — as Hayden did against India.

In devising the new format, the ACB hopes to appeal to an Asian audience which is unfamiliar with the intricacies of one-day or five-day test cricket.

Australia a won the opening fixture by 33 runs after restricting India to 172 for six from their maximum 14 overs.

In the two other matches on Friday, New Zealand overhauled Australia's modest total of 160 for seven with 15 balls to spare while South aArica beat an Asian invitational team led by former Australia Captain Allan Border.

Sports Highlights

Tehran Times Service

Rugby Union

LONDON — English rugby union officials are calling in an outside arbitrator to settle the personal differences running through the game since it became professional last season.

At the annual general meeting on Friday, Cliff Brittle, chairman of the executive committee, and new president John Richardson called for an end to the internal feuding.

Soccer

BOLOGNA, Italy — Russian striker Igor Kolyvanov has signed for Italian serie a side Bologna, the newly promoted club said on Friday.

Kolyvanov, who played four of the last five seasons in the top flight with Foggia, will earn a reported 800 billion lire ($520,000) per season at Bologna.

Golf

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Ian Woosnam survived a bogey at the last hole to edge closer to his third Scottish Open title with a two-under-par 70 in the third round on Friday.

The 1987 and 1990 champion at Gleneagles, who now leads by three shots, shaved four shots off par with an eagle and two birdies on the first four holes of the back nine.

Tennis

GSTAAD, Switzerland — Top seed and defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov moved into the semifinals of the Swiss Open on Friday with a straight sets win over Spaniard Francisco Clavet.

But for the first time in the tournament the French Open champion and world number four was forced to work before finally clinching a 6-3 7-6 (7-4) victory.

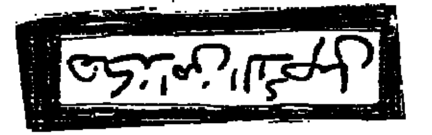
Combine XI Win by 61 Runs

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Azadi Cricket Club (ACC) lost to Combine XI by 61 runs in a 40 overs cricket match played at Azadi Stadium. Batting first Combine XI scored 225 runs for the loss of 6 wkts. The main scorers were Nariman 50, Abbasi 47, Salimian 33, Mukesh 19, Esmaili & Juggoo added valuable 22 runs in the last over.

ACC were in trouble against Combine XI bowlers losing half their side for mere 75 runs with their skipper Zain Khan out cheaply. They were all out for 164 runs. Khorram scored 50 runs, A.R. Khan 18 & Farooq 26 runs. Lalit was not out on 22 runs.

Nariman was picked as the man of the match.



TEHRAN (July 13) — Chadian President's Special Advisor Ousman Djidda confers with the Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. In the meeting, here Saturday, the Chadian official submitted a written message from his country's president, Idriss Deby.



TEHRAN (July 13) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani receives a group of Iranian ranking administrators and officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and those of the Islamic Propagation Organization.

Photos by M. Takin

Afghan Peace Process Still on Track

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's nascent peace process is still on track, despite the refusal of two major opposition groups to join the Kabul government, a top presidential official said Saturday.

"The peace process we have launched will forge ahead because that is the will of our people," presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Murad told AFP.

"We see a dark future for the enemies of peace and no group, including the Taleban, has any option but to accept peace, whether they do so tomorrow or later," he added.

Murad's comments came after the Taleban militia, which has been besieging Kabul for nine months, reportedly again rejected an offer to join the expanding administration here or to discuss peace with it.

The Taleban leadership in the southern city of Kandahar reportedly said it would not talk to President Burhanuddin Rabbani or his government.

The Islamic warriors' steadfast refusal to negotiate came just two weeks after former opposition chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar joined the government as premier, apparently prompting other leaders of warring factions to consider following suit.

But last week, Yunus Khalis, chief of a powerful neutral group based in the eastern city of Jalalabad, also rejected speculation that he was negotiating a place for himself and his group in the Kabul government.

Khalis said in a statement received in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar that he had never asked for nor considered a government post, adding that he was against a party-based system of government.

But Murad said Saturday that talks were continuing between Rabbani's government and Khalis on his joining the government.

"Contacts are still underway between our two groups and we remain optimistic about the possible outcome," he said.

The new coalition government is desperately trying to woo northern warlord General Abdul Rasheed Dostum and Shia Muslim leader Karim Khalili's Hezb-i-Wahdat faction into the administration.

Hekmatyar said Wednesday he was planning a trip in the "near future" to Dostum's northern territory as well as to the Wahdat base in the central province of Bamyan to hold talks with them on joining the Kabul coalition.

UK Minister Calls For Resistance Against U.S. Anti-Iran Trade Legislation

LONDON (IRNA) – British Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, has called upon the Transatlantic business community to resist moves in the U.S. Congress to impose secondary sanctions against Iran and Libya similar to those against Cuba.

He told the American Chamber of Commerce in London Thursday that the British government had "lobbied hard against these pieces of legislation" both alone and in cooperation with other U.S. trading partner in Europe and elsewhere.

But Lang said it was vital that business and especially the Transatlantic community should "make its voice heard" and that the American Bill Clinton administration and Congress should "limit the damage" caused by the Cuba bill and minimize the risk of future legislation.

His call came the day after the U.S. announced its first formal sanctions against executives from a Canadian mining company, including two Britons, for investing in Cuba, which he said the UK strongly condemned.

The minister said that he could see no justification for the exclusion from the U.S. of businessmen. It was a "senseless measure," which the British government would be seeking to rescind, he said.

He revealed that the UK was "already under considerable pressure" to introduce counter-measures against American firms and that it was now even more important that President Clinton should use his powers to suspend provisions of the Cuba bill.

The legislation against Cuba and the prospective measures to penalize non-American companies investing in Iran and Libya, Lang said had marred Britain's record of cooperation with the U.S. on investment matters.

By penalizing investment interests of its closest allies, the U.S. was "damaging Transatlantic relations and giving comfort to those it seeks to challenge," the trade and industry secretary warned.

The other effect was that it was damaging efforts to create a more open and liberal international investment environment and the prospects for a framework of foreign investment rules, he said.

Former Indian PM Braces for Another Challenge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Hundreds of supporters of former Indian Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao staged a rally outside his residence here Saturday as dissidents launched a fresh campaign demanding his resignation as party chief.

Supporters of the 75-year-old Rao danced in the street outside his home here after the former premier on Friday night put down a rebellion among senior leaders of India's oldest political party, witnesses said.

The dissidents who were expected to mount a challenge to Rao's leadership remained silent at a meeting late Friday of the 17-member Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body.

The rebels, party sources said, failed to voice any objection to Rao remaining as president of the 111-year-old Congress Party.

But on Saturday dissidents fired another salvo at Rao, asking him to "make a dignified exit from the post of the Congress (I) Party president" and "name his successor," party sources said.

K. Karunakaran, former industry minister in Rao's Cabinet and a rebel, said dissidents in the Congress-I had written a letter to Rao asking him to quit the party president's post.

"Yes we (dissidents) have written a letter to Rao," said Karunakaran. "I will not reveal more details about the letter at this stage."

The letter comes ahead of a CWC meeting on Tuesday when rebels and Rao's supporters are scheduled to hold informal talks in the absence of the party chief.

"The proposal to hold informal talks Tuesday came from Sharad Pawar (a dissident) and the party president will not be present," said B. Maurya, Congress-I spokesman. "All senior members agreed to Pawar's proposal."

Arafat Expected in Cairo Sunday

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is expected in Cairo on Sunday for talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak on the Middle East peace process, an official here said.

The talks will include "the latest developments in the peace process and ways of relaunching it" and fall within "the continuous consultations between the two presidents," Zohdi al-Kareh, the palestinian representative in Cairo, told AFP.

(Contd from Pg.2)

IRAN'S....

between 7.6 and 9 billion by 2025 and between 7.9 and 11.9 billion by 2050.

He lauded Iran, especially the Health Ministry, a number of non-governmental and international organizations and the Family Planning Association for their efforts in this regard.

Participants in the meeting discussed topics ranging from men's contribution to family planning and society's contribution to family planning programs to the role of non-governmental organizations in the family planning programs.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

AGREEMENT...

Walid Moualem, the Syrian ambassador to Washington, explained that the accord "responds to the needs of all the parties."

"The important thing is this agreement will allow for the protection of civilians" in southern Lebanon, he added.

According to Lebanese Ambassador Ryad Tabbarah, the diplomats were able to clear up the last two remaining sticking points.

Those points concerned the time period for rotating the presidency of the group between France and the United States and the voting procedure in the event of a cease-fire violation.

Concerning the voting procedure, ambassadors agreed that foreign ministers from the five countries will intervene should surveillance group members fail to reach agreement on a lower level.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PALESTINIAN...

should keep and protect Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. They should respect them," he said in an interview broadcast by the Saudi-owned Mideast Broadcast Center and the Voice of America's Arabic service.

Arafat said he referred to a letter from ex-Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who promised to let the Palestinian offices in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas function under Israeli rule.

Arafat warned that such an attempt, especially to shut down the Islamic Affairs Office in charge of religious sites, would arouse bitter opposition throughout Arab and Islamic nations.

(Contd from Pg.1)

CARTER...

position of non-engagement with the government of Cuban President Fidel Castro, while they have taken the stand that by investing, they give the Cuban government more of a stake in remaining on the reform path.

The U.S. law includes terms denying U.S. visas to foreign businessmen who "traffic" in U.S. property which Castro's government nationalized after 1959, a major inconvenience especially to businessmen in Canada and Mexico, U.S. neighbors and NAFTA partners.

Wednesday, Toronto-based Sherritt International became the first company sanctioned by the U.S. Helms-Burton Law; its executives and shareholders cannot enter U.S. territory.

"I think what is being done now is an insult to Canadians, it's an insult to Mexicans, it's an insult to Europeans," Carter said.

Now, Clinton is under the gun. He must decide by early next week if he will allow the toughest terms of the U.S. law to take effect or remain on hold.

Called title III they would allow U.S. nationals and companies to sue foreign firms in U.S. courts for doing business in Cuba involving ex-U.S. property.

Clinton's problem: With the November 5 presidential vote looming, he has to choose whether to alienate the almost one million Cuban-Americans in south Florida, a powerful voting bloc, or further infuriate key U.S. allies by letting the law bite even more.

"My hope is that President Clinton will do everything possible to minimize the damage that has already been caused by this ill-advised legislation," Carter said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUSSIAN...

Chechen fighters in Gekhi resisted attempts by the Russian troops to enter the village, which television pictures showed to be burning in several places.

A Russian general and a top Chechen commander died in the clashes in Gekhi Thursday.

However, the Russian command said Friday that fighting had stopped in Gekhi and police were searching for remaining separatist guerrillas.

ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday that federal troops were surrounding Mekhketi, where the Russian command said Chechen leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev had his headquarters.

An AFP correspondent reported Friday that the village of Vedeno was also surrounded by Russian troops. He put at no more than 15 the number of fighters remaining in the village, along with about 3,000 civilians, many of whom were hiding in their cellars.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

DEVELOPMENT

amount of money to subsidize essential goods but also opposed high increase in fuel prices, he added.

Setting out a ceiling for government's foreign debts was among other proposals offered and approved by the 4th Majlis, he said, adding that the law called on the government to reduce its total debts by 5 percent annually during the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

Furthermore, it prevented the government from incurring more than $25 billion debt by the end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan, he added.

Savoji said appointing committed and revolutionary people to run key posts in the country, widespread campaign against cultural assault, and safeguarding Islamic values will help prevent Western influences.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHINA...

Other issues yet to be agreed include the procedure for initiating on-site inspections and the treaty's effective date.

China has already dropped its proposal to allow "peaceful nuclear explosions" that could advance non-agressive technology, and the negotiator urged other parties to follow Beijing's flexible lead and come to a swift consensus.

"We are trying our level best to negotiate a good treaty ... and we are negotiating with the expectation that China will sign and comply," he said.

A Glimpse Into the Life of the Holy Prophet (S)

By Martyr Ayatollah Morteza Motahari

The Holy Prophet of Islam, with whom the divine revelation came to be fulfilled, was born in 570 A.D.

He was appointed to prophethood at the age of 40 and since then started proselytizing for Islam to the people of Mecca (Saudi Arabia) during a period of 13 years in extreme hardship and difficulty. During the same period, he trained a group of devout followers and later moved to Medina, making it his base. For the next 19 years he launched his divine campaign to spread Islam to the world, particularly to all Arab powers and chieftains. At the end of the 10-years period the entire Arab peninsula embraced Islam.

The holy verses of the Qoran were revealed to him gradually throughout his 23 years of prophethood. His followers demonstrated an unheard of fascination to the Qoran and the persons of the Holy Prophet. It was in the beginning of the 11th year from his migration to Medina that the Prophet of Islam took his final journey (Me'araj) to Allah at the age of 63. He left behind a thriving community of believers armed with a living ideology and committed to a universal mission. There were two factors that contributed to its dynamism: a) the unity and spiritual power of the early believers and b) the Qoran and unique personal influence of the Holy Prophet among the Muslims who lived on indelibly influenced by his memory.

CHILDHOOD: He was not yet born when his father passed away during a commercial journey to Syria. His grandfather, Abdul-Mottalib, who assumed guardianship over him even from his childhood, noted evidence of a lofty and extraordinary soul which drew everyone's attention. His grandfather realized from the very beginning that a brilliant future was in store for his grandson.

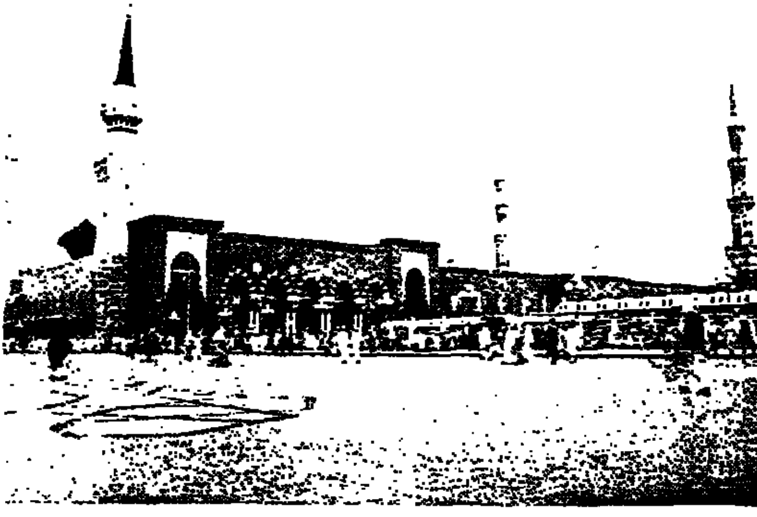
He was eight years old when Abuld-Mottalib died and, according to his last will, his eldest son, Abu Talib, (the elder uncle of the Prophet), was also surprised at the strange and extraordinary character of his young nephew and felt that the young boy was different from other boys in many ways. No one ever noticed him showing any greed in his eating habits and contrary to customs of the time and place, he maintained a neat and clean appearance and combed his heir regularly.

While it was usual for children, even elderly men, to take off their clothes in the presence of others, he was very modest and never bared himself in public.

Abu Talib Would repeatedly say: " I never observed anything indecent, even as little as an untimely laughter from him. I never heard him lie. He did not show eagerness to join other children's games. He was fond of solitude and clean places and was very humble".

TRUSTWORTHINESS: Before his prophethood he was hired to do an errand for Khadija (who later become his wife) and took a commercial journey to Syria for her. On his trip, he displayed unique honesty, trustworthiness and skill. He was known for his trustworthiness to the extent that people called him " Mohammad the trustworthy" and left him the care of their valuables during trips.

HIS BATTLE AGAINST OPPRESSION AND TYRANNY: During the Jahilia (the age of ignorance before the revelation of Islam) he signed a treaty, with a group of other noblemen who were also tired of injustices, to defend the oppressed. The covenant was made in the house of a celebrity of Mecca, Abdullah ibn Jad'an, and came to be known as the "Helf al-Fozul". Even during his prophethood he commemorated the covenant and would say he did not like it to be breached and that he would welcome another such covenant.



HIS CONDUCT IN THE FAMILY: He was very kind to family members and never treated his wives with violence, a behavior totally in contradiction with the custom of the time. He would even tolerate bad language from some of his wives to the extend that even others would feel uncomfortable with his tolerance. He recommended to everybody to treat all women with kindness and would say: "All people have good and bad characteristics. Men should not judge their wives in terms of their bad characteristics only. One may resent one of his wives characteristics but e pleased with the others. Thus he should take into account both good and bad together."

He was particularly kind towards his children and would carry them on his shoulders. He would kiss them often and this was not in practice in those days. Once, in the presence of one of the Arab elites, he kissed one of his grandsons and the man said: " I have two sons and never kissed them even once." In reply, the prophet said: " God will not be kind to those who are not kind."

He was just as kind to children of other Muslims and would often let them sit in his lap and caress them. It happened many times that the mothers would give their babies to him to bless and the infant would wet itself and defile the prophet clothes. The mothers would feel embarrassed but the Holy Prophet would say: " Let them finish their natural function. It is not important if my clothes be soaked with it (urine). I can wash them.

HIS TREATMENT OF THE PEOPLE: He was very kind to people and welcomed them with cheerfulness. He always took the initiative to greet people, even children and slaves. He never stretched his legs in front of people and would not lean back. He would sit with his legs under him. In gatherings, he would have everybody sit in a circle so that each one was equal in position with the others. He would regularly visit his companions and if he failed to see them for three days would ask their whereabouts. If he heard one was sick he would visit and would attend to his needs. In gatherings he had the habit of looking randomly at everyone in order to treat them all equally. He hated being served and would always participate in any work to be done. He would constantly say: "God dislikes seeing His slaves attach special privileges to themselves."

LENIENCY AND FIRMNESS: "He was very mild and forgiving regarding acts that concerned only him. His great forgiving nature was one of the reasons for his success. But he was very firm with regard to whatever concerned the public's interest and the laws of God. After the conquest of Mecca, he forgave all the people who personally spared nothing to harass and persecute him. He even pardoned the killer of his beloved uncle, Hamzah. On the other hand, when a woman from an influential family committed theft he ordered her to be punished and did not consider the pleas of those who asked for her forgiveness. He said sternly: "No one should intervene in such matters. How can we stop executing the laws of God for the people's sake? Nations before us have met their end and collapsed because they failed to carry out God's commandments equally among their people. They exempted the powerful form punishment and punished the weak. Verily by God, I will not be lenient in the execution of God's laws even if the one who breaches them be my own kinsman."

WORSHIP: "He would dedicate a portion of his nights, a third or a half and at times, two thirds of a night, to prayers in solitude. Although he spent all his days in activity, he would not reduce the length of his nightly prayers and would find peace and calm in solitary communion with God. He did not pray for the sake of heavenly reward or for fear of hell. He offered his prayers out of love, devotion and gratitude. One of his wives once asked him why, as the prophet of God and certainly blessed and saved, prayed so much. He answered: "should I not be a grateful slave"?

He would fast a good number of days in addition to those of the month of fasting (Ramazan and part of Sha'aban). He fasted every other day and would totally abandon his bed in the last ten days of Ramazan to be in the mosque for prayers.

He would advise his companions not to overindulge in worship, saying it is enough to fast three days in a month. He would tell them not to go to extremes in act of worship, which he said would have a reverse effect. He was also very much against seclusion and monasticism and would constantly remind his companions not to neglect their obligations to their own bodies, families and friends (in favor of excessive worship). He offered lengthy prayers when alone but made short ones in the company of others so as not to inconvenience the weak and the elderly.

PIETY AND HUMILITY: Piety and humility ruled his life. He dined on very simple dishes, dressed very modestly and humbly and avoided pomp and luxury. He would sit on the ground on a simple carpet. He used to milk goats himself and would ride unsaddled horses and donkeys. He would not allow others to follow him in a ceremonial manner. His usual food consisted of bread and dates and he would show himself patching his own clothes. Though humble, he did not favor poverty as a philosophy of life but considered wealth, if spent in legal and decent ways, to be beneficial to society. He would say that wealth, if gained through legal means, would be a good fortune for the pious and would aid him to accomplish more good deed and increase his Piety.

WILLPOWER AND ENDURANCE:His willpower, patience and endurance were unique and these qualities affected his companions immensely. His struggles witnessed many times of hardship such that it seemed there was no hope for success, but not for single moment did he submit to hopelessness nor did he ever think of defeat. His power of faith in the righteousness of what he was doing never failed.

Imam Hassan (AS), Standard-Bearer of Non-Violent Revolution

Tehran Times Service

With the martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), Imam Hassan with the acclaim of forty thousand people in Kufa, was proclaimed as the leader of Islamic community.

Not only in Kufa, but also in other places such as Mecca and Medina, there was no protest made by anyone against this proclamation. Imam Hassan (AS) was accepted as the new leader of the Islamic community by practically all sections of the Islamic world. But in Shaam, Muawiyah bin Au Sufyan, who had been fighting against Imam Ali (AS) for five years on the pretext that he was trying to "avenge" the murder of Uthman, was not very happy. After five years of trying, Muawiyah was once again seeing the caliphate slip from his grasp.

Caliphate

Immediately, Muawiyah decided to carry out a number of steps to ultimately gain the caliphate: firstly, he denounced the appointment of Imam Hassan (AS), refusing to accept the validity of a choice that had been made by the people; secondly, he stepped up his spying and bringing activities against Imam Hassan (AS), hoping to rouse people and entice them to his cause using money; and thirdly, he gathered an army of sixty thousand men and marched out against Kufa.

kufa

In Kufa, the traditional fickleness of the people that had so vexed Imam Ali (AS), now resurfaced most of the tribal leaders of Kufa had only supported Imam Ali (AS), and later Imam Hassan (AS) simply because they did not want to be dominated by the Shaamis, and did not want to see the province of Shaam get all the wealth that was pouring into the capital of the Islamic world.

If the capital could be in Kufa, then they stood to gain a lot in materialistic terms. But things reached a stage where they might have to die, or at least suffer for the cause of Imam Hassan (AS), they suddenly became very much inclined towards peace--an inclination which was strongly encouraged by Muawiyah with bribes and promises of power to the tribal leaders. One by one, tribal leaders either started defecting outright to Muawiyah's side or else proclaimed their unwillingness to fight for Imam Hassan (AS) through both words as well as deeds.

Faced with this difficult situation, Imam Hassan had two choices: he could have gone on and fight against Muawiyah with small force that remained with him, being martyred in the processs, or he could abdicate and leave the worldly caliphate to Muawiyah bin Au Sufyan, making it seem like a fight for the caliphate between two contenders.

It would also have camouflaged the real issue, which was whether the leadership of the Islamic community would be a religious one, or whether it should be a political one, whether Islam would mean a state for all, or whether it would mean a kingdom for a particular racial group, and whether the leader of the Ummah was to be an Imam, or whether he was to be a mere king. At that particular moment, the situation was not right for the surfacing of the real issue that had to wait for Imam Hassan's time, when the difference between right and wrong, as well as the real roots of the conflict, would be much more clear.

Conditions

Be it as may, Imam Hassan agreed to give up the worldly caliphate. Contemptuously refusing the offer of money that Muawiyah had made, Imam Hassan instead drafted his own conditions, which are worth quoting in full:

1) Muawiyah should rule according to the Book of Allah, the Sunna of the Prophet, and the conduct of the righteous caliphs.

2) Muawiyah will not appoint or nominate anyone to the caliphate after him, but the choice will be left to the *shura* (council) of the Muslims.

3) The people will be left in peace wherever they are in the land of God.

4) The companions and followers of Ali (AS), their lives, properties, their women, and their children, will be guaranteed safe conduct and peace. This is a solemn agreement and covenant in the name of God, binding Muawiyah bin Abu Sufyan to keep it and fulfil it.

5) No harm or danger, secretly or openly, will be posed to Hassan bin Ali, his brother Hussein, or to anyone from the family of the Prophet (AS). Muawiyah readily accepted these conditions his zeal for revenge suddenly forgotten. In the years to come, he was to violate every one of these conditions. This treaty, and Muawiyah's easy acceptance of its conditions, represents the final proof, if any is needed that Muawiyah's battle had been for the caliphate, and not for the purpose of "righting" any wrong.

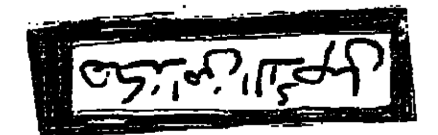
Treaty

Going back to Medina, wrong Imam Hassan (AS) remained faithful to the treaty, avoiding all involvement in the political field, an avoidance that would later be used by his enemies to create a malicious lie against him. But even in this quiescent condition, he was seen as a threat by Muawiyah, for the latter wanted to appoint his son Yazid as his successor.

Muawiyah was already 58 years old whem he took over the caliphate, while, Imam Hassan (AS) was only 3 years old, as things stood, Muawiyah had very little hope that he could live longer than the Imam. On the other hand, so long as Imam Hassan (AS) was alive, there was no way that Muawiyah could compel people to pay allegiance to Yazid, for that would be a blatantly obvious violation of the treaty.

Aware of this, Imam Hassan (AS) took a number of precautions against any possible attacks on his life, in this way, at third time, poison administered through the connivance of his wife Ju'da (who had been promised a large sum of money by Muawiyah) did its tragic job, and the Imam was martyred on the 28th of Safar, 49 A.H., some eight years after the signing of the treaty.

But the worse was yet to come, so much had the times changed, and so deep had the corruption of wealth spread, that even the funeral of Imam Hassan (AS) was not allowed to be conduct in peace. And soon after the martyrdom, Muawiyah's historians began the task of defiling the memory of the Imam, rewriting history to suit the needs of the Bani Ummayya. The resulting misconceptions and outright lies soon became accepted dogma among those opposed to the Ahl al-bayt, and still echo today, disguised "truth" and presented as "impartial".



TEHRAN TIMES
international news
PAGE 16
JULY 14, 1996

Sharks Beach Bangladesh Fishermen

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (Reuter) — Hundreds of sharks have invaded the coast of Bangladesh from the Bay of Bengal, forcing fishermen to stay on the beach for safety, marine fisheries officials said on Friday.

The sharks have showed up along more than 100 km (60 miles) of coast between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf over the past week, official A.N. Sarkar said.

"This is very rare on this beach," he told Reuters.

76-Year-Old English Woman Killed by Bull Terrier

LECKHAMPTON, England (AFP) — A 76-year-old woman was killed Friday by a bull terrier that belonged to a member of her family in this town in the southwest of England, the police said.

The victim's husband, 84, tried in vain to stop the dog from attacking his wife by hitting it, but he was bitten instead and had to be taken to hospital with hand injuries.

Police later put down the dog by shooting it.

30.000 Rally to Commemorate Srebrenica Dead

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Around 30,000 people rallied in this northern Bosnian town Friday to commemorate the Muslim men slain by Bosnian Serbs near the eastern town of Srebrenica a year ago.

People streamed into Tuzla, which houses most of the 34,000 Srebrenica refugees, in a fleet of buses from all over Bosnia.

One year and a day after Bosnian Serb forces steam-rollered into Srebrenica, Muslims, Croats and Serbs, loyal to the Sarajevo government of Bosnia, pushed their way into an open-field site in the center of Tuzla to protest the slaughter of up to 8,000 Muslim men from Srebrenica last year.

Between 3,000 and 8,000 men and boys from the eastern Bosnian town were cut down by Serb execution squads in the days after Serb forces overran Srebrenica on July 11 last year.

Investigators from the UN War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague (ICTY) have this week been digging up bodies from a mass grave of Muslims near Srebrenica.

One of the investigators, William Haglund, Friday confirmed that the 55 to 60 bodies discovered so far at Cerska, near Srebrenica, were civilians who had been executed. They were shot in the head while their hands were tied behind their backs.

The bodies had been in the ground about one year, he said.

More bodies are expected to be uncovered at graves in the area in coming days, he added.

In Tuzla, the town to which the women and children of Srebrenica fled in a fleet of buses and trucks last year, a huge stage was set up in the center of the main field, topped with a slogan "Commemoration for the Victims of Agression."

Colombia's Samper Says He Needs No Visa to Rule

BOGOTA, Colombia (Reuter) — Colombia is not planning to retaliate at present against the U.S. decision to bar president Ernesto Samper from entering the United States because of his alleged ties to drug traffickers, a government source said on Friday.

"We're trying to take this decision as calmly as possible, given the circumstances," said the source, who works closely with Samper.

"I didn't need a visa to come to Chaparral," Samper told cheering residents in the town Plaza.

"I don't need one to continue governing Colombia," he added. "I don't govern with the permission of anyone."

Samper's defiant speech played well with the crowd in Chaparral, a hardscrabble town in the middle of a region that has been hard hit by Colombia's long-running war with leftist guerrillas.

He also won applause in Ibague, the capital of Tolima, when he said close ties with the United States were important to Colombia but only if "the principles of mutual respect, equality in international affairs and non-intervention" were not trampled on.

His defiance was in contrast to the somber mood and underlying feeling of impotence and anger that predominated in government offices in the capital Bogota on Friday.

Security Tightened ahead of New Parliament's Maiden Session

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh prepared Saturday for the maiden session of its new Parliament, as the opposition charged widespread rigging in elections and a jailed former president was set to be released to attend the session.

Security was tightened here Saturday, one day before the session, as police banned rallies and marches near the National Parliament House and also banned the carrying of weapons or explosives in the area.

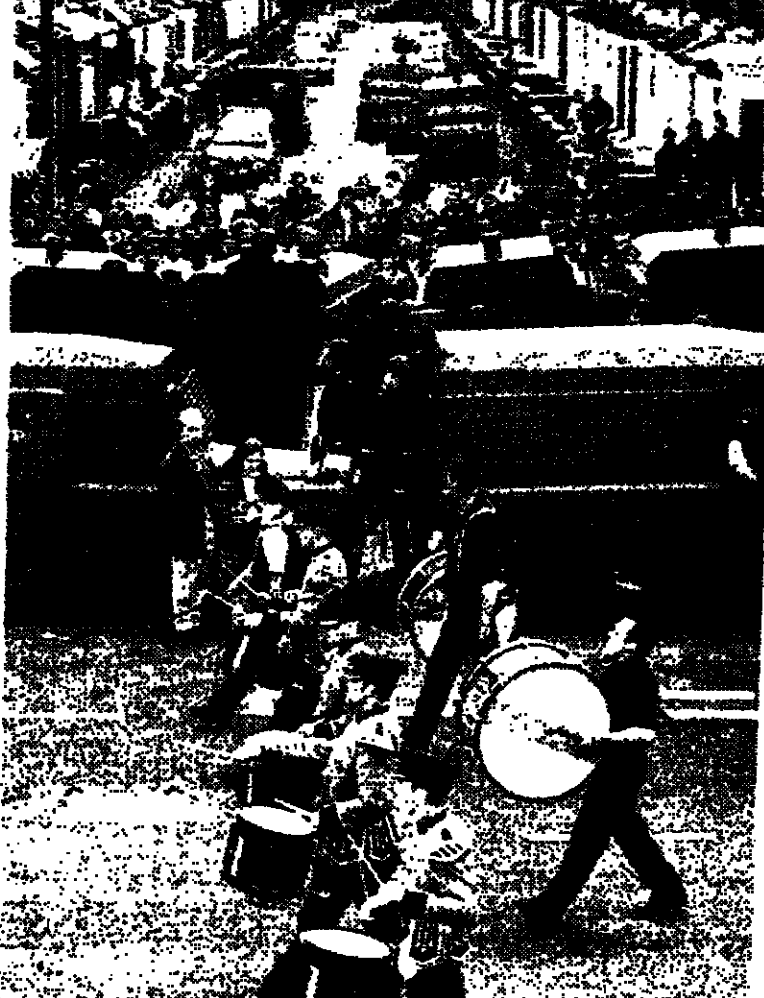
Riot police were posted at strategic road crossings and around the Parliament House as well.

The 330-member Parliament will witness the historic return to power of the Awami League, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, after 21 years in the opposition.

The league came to power after winning last month's general elections, forcing the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to the opposition for the first time since its birth in 1978.

A heated debate was certain over BNP claims that the June 12 elections were "subtly rigged in a massive way," the *Bhorer Kagoj* newspaper said.

The BNP said it would produce proof during the parliamentary session of rigging in 111 constituencies and also threatened to take court action.



BELFAST, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom (July 12): A Protestant Orange Lodge band marches the Ormeau Road whilst Catholic residents are barricaded in their own streets behind in Belfast. Several hundred Protestants began their traditional Orange Order parade following a night of serious violence in which three policemen were shot and street rioters torched cars.

(AFP PHOTO)

Bruton Condemns Britain Over Northern Irish Unrest

LONDON (Reuter) — Irish Prime Minister John Bruton condemned the British government on Friday for a week of trouble in Northern Ireland which he said had severely damaged the peace process.

Bruton told BBC television that, in its handling of unrest in the province, the British government had breached "major canons of democracy" and had made "a very serious mistake" in not standing up to the Protestant Orange Order.

Asked if he placed responsibility for the week's unrest directly on the shoulders of the British government, Bruton said: "I do".

In remarks likely to sour relations between London and Dublin, Bruton said: "I believe that the peace process depends on politicians who support democracy all the time.

Bruton was speaking as tens of thousands of Protestants loyal to Britain staged marches across Northern Ireland on Friday after a night of Roman Catholic riots in which three policemen were shot and wounded in the first such attack for two years.

The Irish leader accused the British government and security forces of failing to act impartially and consistently by at first refusing to allow the Protestants to march through a Catholic neighborhood in the town of Portadown and then reversing the decision.

"People look to a police force and to a government in any democracy to be impartial, not to be willing to yield to pressure and to be consistent," Bruton said.

Death Toll Nears 600 in China's Jiangxi Province

BEIJING (AFP) — Floods have left at least 594 dead in central, southern and eastern of China, although an official said Saturday there were victims uncounted in eastern Jiangxi Province.

The Civil Affairs Bureau in the central province of Hubei counted 108 victims in that province, six more than in the previous reckoning, bringing the total number of those killed in the floods to 594.

A civil affairs bureau official in Jiangxi said by telephone there had been "a few more deaths" in the province than the officially recorded 11 deaths so far.

In the eastern province of Anhui, 11 million residents in 2,000 villages were affected by the flood waters, which inundated 1.2 million hectares (2.96 million acres) of crop land, according to a report in *Anhui* daily received here Saturday.

The paper, dated Thursday, predicted more rain in the province, which is one of the worst-hit in this year's floods.

The latest consolidated report from the National Bureau of Civil Affairs was dated July 5, a week after the onset of flooding. Incorporating only four of the nine affected provinces, it estimated the affected population at more than 20 million.

Hurricane Bertha Hits North Carolina Coast

WILMINGTON, N.C. (Reuter) — The eye of hurricane Bertha moved ashore in North Carolina on Friday, blasting deserted coastal cities and towns with 100 mph (160 kph) winds that ripped the roofs off buildings and toppled an amusement park Ferris wheel.

Bertha's gales uprooted trees, knocked over signs and shredded power lines, leaving thousands of people in North and South Carolina without electricity.

Powerful winds of up to 115 mph (185 kph) near Wilmington ripped part of a former navy destroyer loose from its mooring in the Cape Fear River, setting it dangerously adrift, officials said.

Bertha intensified as it moved over the warm waters of the gulf stream close to shore. Sustained winds climbed from 80 mph (128 kph) late on Thursday to 105 mph (170 kph) as it bore down on a Carolina coastline evacuated by tens of thousands of residents and vacationers who fled to higher ground.

Kurds Free Kidnapped Reuters Staffers

VIENNA (AFP) — Turkish Kurds who seized two members of the Reuters news agency staff here freed their captives and surrendered to police Friday evening, police said.

The two marketing employees were taken hostage by four Kurds who demanded the release of political prisoners in Turkey.

After several hours the Kurds released Stefan Bresslauer and Christian Arlt and gave themselves up to police in the building, which also houses the city's stock exchange.

The attackers, describing themselves as belonging to a prisoners' solidarity committee, demanded international press coverage for the situation of political prisoners in Turkey, police said.

A police spokesman said they also found pamphlets calling for the release of political prisoners in Turkey. The hostage-takers also urged Ankara to revoke a decree under which political prisoners can be transferred to penitentiaries and isolated from other prisoners.

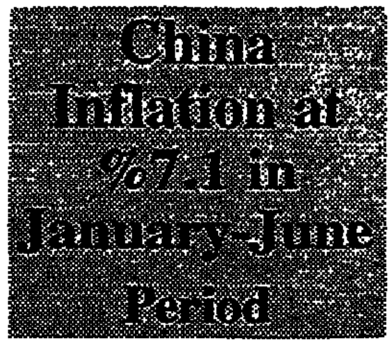
No one was injured in the drama, and the two captives said afterwards they had not been threatened. Police said the Kurds were probably not armed.



VIENNA, Austria (July 12): Presumed Kurdish activists flash V-signs as they stand on a balcony of Vienna's Stock Exchange where two members of Reuters news agency staff in Austria were seized by five Turkish Kurds demanding the release of political prisoners in Turkey. The two journalists have been freed in the meantime and the Kurds surrendered to police.

(AFP PHOTO)

Disputes to Heat Up Asia-Pacific Trade Talks



China Inflation at %7.1 in January-June Period

BEIJING (AFP) - Retail prices in China rose 5.9 percent in June compared with the same period last year, bringing the tally in the first half of 1996 to 7.1 percent, the press reported Friday.

The press, which quoted figures supplied by the state Statistics Bureau, called on the public "not to give up its efforts" to brake inflation.

The Chinese government has set an inflation target of 10 percent for this year, compared with 14.8 percent in 1995.

"We must pursue our efforts to overcome the difficulties caused by natural disasters," the *People's Daily* said, referring to flooding that has hit farmers in nine of China's 30 administrative entities.

The flooding is expected to boost pressure on food prices.

The inflation figures came from 29 of China's provinces, regions or municipalities, the sole exception being Tibet, whose figures were unavailable because of "distance, the lack of institutions or people qualified to compile them," a Bureau spokesman told AFP.

Over the six months, there was a 10-percent rise only in the central province of Shaanxi.

The booming southern coastal provinces of Hainan, Fujian and Guangxi performed well, with rises of only 2.3, 4.2 and 4.4 percent respectively, according to the official figures.

In Beijing, the six-month rise was 8.7 percent, while it was 6.1 percent in Shanghai and Guangzhou.

TOKYO (AFP) - Trade disputes will punctuate the normally cool talks of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum trade ministers in New Zealand next week.

Japan and the United States will wrestle over semiconductors, while Washington is to challenge Jakarta over its much criticised "national car" policy.

Meanwhile, China is not expected to push its quest for accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), but is looking for recognition of its efforts to meet APEC targets ahead of schedule, diplomats in Beijing say.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has given "full-power" to his trade minister, Shunpei Tsukahara, to solve the chip dispute with the United States at APEC next week, officials said.

Tsukahara is to meet Acting U.S Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky during the two-day forum of 18 APEC trade ministers in Christchurch, which starts Monday and will lay groundwork for a summit in Manila in November.

But Barshefsky, asked in Washington before her departure for New Zealand whether a final agreement would be worked out at the APEC meeting, said: "I would think that would be unlikely."

Nonetheless, Japanese Vice Trade Minister Yoshihiro Sakamoto and U.S counterpart Ira Shapiro will spend the weekend exploring compromise.

Tokyo and Washington are at odds over government involvement in future semiconductor trade once their bilateral pact expires on July 31.

Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton agreed during last month's Group of Seven meeting to resolve the dispute before the pact expires.

Yuko Yasunaga, Deputy Head of the Trade Ministry's Industrial Electronics Division, said: "the gap between us is still wide."

Washington is hoping for a new bilateral deal for the 10-year pact, which has boosted the foreign share of Japan's microchip market to about 30 percent.

Tokyo insists the pact has served its purpose, and has proposed instead a government-level forum grouping Japan, the United States and the European Union to discuss semiconductor trade on a multilateral basis. Europe backs Japan.

Another hot topic will be Indonesia's "national car" policy, which has been widely criticized by U.S., Japanese and European governments and auto makers for allegedly flouting WTO obligations.

Barshefsky said she would see Indonesian Trade Minister Tunky Ariwibo to reiterate Washington's strong opposition to the plan.

She added the United States was prepared to join Japan and other countries that object to the scheme in filing a complaint at the WTO.

"There's no question that the plan violates their (Indonesia's) WTO commitments," Barshefsky insisted. "There are no major trading partners of Indonesia who (accept) the Indonesian plan."

Adherence to WTO principles is to be a major topic among the ministers.

Jakarta in February announced tax exemptions for Indonesian-owned producers of a "national car", with the only eligible company Pt Timor Putra National owned by President Suharto's son Hutomo Mandela Putra.

All other cars sold in Indonesia, dominated by Japanese brands, face steep import and luxury taxes, adding more than 60 percent to prices.

China, which has effectively shelved its WTO aspirations until at least after the U.S. Presidential elections later this year, expects some endorsement for its liberalization efforts.

"What China really wants is a 'public pat on the back from APEC, especially for fulfilling its Osaka pledge on tariff cuts by April 1 and its commitment to current account convertibility by the end of 1996, four years ahead of schedule," a Western diplomat in Beijing said, referring to promises made by the APEC economies at their 1995 summit.

"I think they would even like a statement from other ministers that China is moving towards a market economy much faster than expected," the diplomat said.

"In private I am sure the Chinese people will make it clear that they feel they have made concessions that deserve some reciprocity," he added.

Barshefsky said she expected to see senior Chinese Trade Negotiator Wu Yi To "raise the need for continuing progress" on protecting intellectual property rights of foreign software firms in China.

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.



KHARTOUM, Sudan (July 9): Sudanese Workers Federation Chairman Mr. Taj-el Sir Abdoun objects in Khartoum to recent government measures effecting dramatic increases in prices of fuel and electricity.

(AFP PHOTO)

Free Storage Zone Likely to Lure Investors: Experts

ABU DHABI (AFP) - World investors seeking cheap labor and materials will likely be attracted to the Persian Gulf by a giant island warehouse to be set up by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), experts said on Friday.

The three-billion-dollar project of Abu Dhabi is the first free zone in the Middle East to include storage of basic commodities, which will combine with abundant energy to make industrial projects highly feasible.

Officials said turning the 35-square-kilometer (14 square mile) Saadiyat Island into a free storage zone would take around three years and the project involves building an airport, a new port, warehouses and other facilities.

In the long run, there will be various trading floors and exchanges and the island will be linked to the mainland through a six-kilometer (four mile) causeway.

"Given its advanced services and the competitive prices of its products as was announced, the zone will attract investors from inside the UAE and outside it and will largely increase the inflow of capital," said Mohammed Al-Asumi, chief economist at the state-controlled Emirates Industrial Bank.

"The zone will mainly help the industrial sector in the region as it will include goods needed for such projects. This, coupled with cheap energy and labor in the region, will make such projects more feasible."

Announcing the project, the zone's Chairman Sheikh Hazaa Ibn Zayed Al-Nahayan said on Wednesday it would have the capacity to store 67 basic commodities, including gold, diamond and other precious metals, copper, grain, foodstuffs, oil and other goods.

Officials said oil would be stored in small quantities as crude is abundant in the region, which sits atop 60 percent of the world's proven oil reserves.

They noted energy supplies to consumers in the six-nation Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) were already among the cheapest in the world given the huge crude and gas wealth and proximity of production facilities to those consumers.

"The zone will focus on metals and other goods that are not in abundance here and are in strong demand, especially for industries," one official said.

"There is no doubt this will lure in investment for non-oil industries, especially when investors realize the prices here are competitive. This will also support our efforts to attract technology."

PGCC states– Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE– have been locked in campaigns to obtain technology needed to build an industrial base and lessen reliance on unpredictable oil export earnings.

$500 Million Pledged in Aid for Cambodia

TOKYO (AFP) - Donor countries and international institutions on Friday pledged to provide $500 million in aid for Cambodia in 1996 and 1997, according to a statement issued after their meeting here.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will provide an additional $17 million, the statement said.

Cambodia, represented by Co-Premiers Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, had asked for $940 million.

The statement was issued by 16 countries and five international institutions after a three-day meeting.

Japan will be the biggest single contributor, providing nearly 10 billion yen ($90 million) in economic aid, plus 2.5 million dollars towards a planned 16-million-fund to help rid Cambodia of landmines.

APEC Pledges Efforts to Clean Environment Amid Industrialization

MANILA (AFP) - APEC environment ministers pledged to report on their efforts to pursue sustainable development amid industrialization at their next meeting in March, officials said Friday.

"Each member economy will define the indicators of performance which ministers will be reporting on when they meet together in Canada," said Philippine Environment Secretary Victor Ramos, Chair of the Ministers' Meeting.

Ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum ended their meeting Friday aware of a "dramatic need" to pursue economic development with environmental concerns, but amid a dearth of solutions.

The ministers adopted a declaration pledging to promote public-private partnerships, support local empowerment and encourage incentive-based approaches in establishing sustainable cities and implementing clean technology and a sustainable marine environment.

Rapid migration to urban areas and increasing industrialization in APEC member economies prompted the call for these initiatives.

Ramos said no figures were cited but "there is just a consensus that this is a deeply felt problem."

However, Eileen Claussen, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International and Scientific Affairs noted that "none of us (APEC) has the answer on sustainable cities."

The concept of sustainable cities takes into consideration urban development planning, pollution management, community empowerment and appropriate housing.

"No one should leave this room thinking there is an easy solution," Claussen told reporters at a separate briefing.

APEC, an informal grouping of nations straddling the Pacific Ocean, realized "that the Oceans of the Pacific basin are critical to economic development in the APEC region," and that it would take stock of existing relevant activities to protect the marine environment.

"Ministers agreed to recommend to the APEC leaders at the Subic Bay meeting that APEC economies agree to make dramatic progress towards clean oceans and seas," in the region, the declaration read.

There would be no punitive measures against member economies who fail to implement initiatives since APEC was based on consensus, Ramos added.

However, John Wolf, U.S. Coordinator for APEC said that APEC could "demonstrate best practices" in clean technology in a future meeting similar to an upcoming meeting on "best practices" in infrastructures to be held in settle later this month.

Taiwan-China Oil Pact Seen Helping Political Thaw

TAIPEI (Reuter) — State-owned oil giants from Taiwan and China signed a historic oil exploration pact on Thursday and said the unprecedented move could ease strains across the Taiwan Strait.

"The two sides share culture and origins, so there should be more cooperation between us," said chairman Chang Tzu-Yuan of Chinese Petroleum, Taiwan's State Oil Monopoly.

Chang quoted from Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui's policy, most recently restated at his May 20 inauguration, that the longtime rivals should strive to foster better relations.

"In President Lee's inaugural address, he offered six points that emphasized the importance of improving cross-straits ties," Chang said after signing the oil-prospecting pact.

For his part, President Wang Yan of the mainland Chinese partner, China National Offshore Oil Corp, quoted Communist party chief Jiang Zemin as saying economic cooperation need not be derailed by differences dating to a 1940s civil war.

"Just like our chairman Jiang Zemin said: ... political matters should not come interferes with the economic affairs," Wang said.

Until Thursday's signing, state-owned Taiwan companies had been banned from signing agreements with mainland state firms.

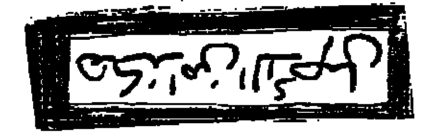
Swedish Unemployment Up to 8.4 Percent in June

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - The Swedish unemployment rate rose to 8.4 percent in June from 7.1 percent in May, figures from the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics (SCB) showed on Friday.

There were 371,000 jobless workers last month from 300,000 in May, SCB said.

The number of people occupied on retraining and other government schemes to combat unemployment amounted to 176,000 people in June, which is 15,000 more than in June last year. In May, 220,000 people were involved in such programs, compared to 231,000 in April.

In June 1995, unemployment totalled 8.2 percent.



TV Programs

Sunday Evening, July 14

National Network, Channel 1:

13:12 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 Quiz Show
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Science
18:15 "Gomaneh"
18:45 The Move
19:00 News
19:15 Millennium of Persian Literature
19:45 Religious Program
20:00 Telecommunications & Development
20:30 Review of Day's Major News Stories
20:43 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:51 Religious Program
21:00 News
21:30 Interlude
21:40 Summer 75
22:05 Religious Program
22:20 Commercials
22:30 Departure Anniversary of Holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (S) & Martyrdom of Imam Hassan (AS)
23:10 Sport Program

National Network, Channel 2:

13:14 Religious Program
13:20 Interlude
13:30 Light of Life
14:00 Iranian TV Series
15:00 Wrestling Course
15:30 Teaching French
16:00 Arabic in University
16:30 Mathematics in University
17:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements for life)
18:00 Children's Program
19:00 Religious Program
19:30 Art of Good Training
20:00 Summertime Program
20:30 Scientific and Cultural News
20:47 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:51 Feature Movie
21:00 The Endless Light
22:00 Sad Story of Departure
22:30 News
22:45 The Notes of the Night
23:00 Special Program on Karbala
23:15 Commentary on the Holy Qoran
24:00 Special Program on Ashura

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 Freshness
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
18:30 Interesting Sport Events
18:50 Damages in Sport
19:10 For Tomorrow
19:30 The 2nd Season
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Departure Anniversary of Hazrat Mohammad (S) & Imam Hassan (AS)
20:47 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:51 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
17:15 Face to Face
17:45 Quiz Show
18:10 You and Advisor
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 Report on Tehran
19:00 Traveling
19:15 Another Kind
19:30 Medical Points
19:45 Report on traffic
20:00 Commercial Program
20:30 Report on Social Security
20:47 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 Report on Tehran Districts
21:15 The Points
21:30 Face to Face
22:00 News
22:15 Report on Tehran
22:30 Wild Life
22:45 Memories
23:00 Religious Lecture
23:45 Sound & Sight

Monday Morning, July 15

National Network, Channel 1:

09:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
09:30 Good Morning Iran
11:10 Iranian Feature
12:30 Focus on Family
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 2:

11:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
11:10 The Sad Departure
12:00 Summertime Program
12:30 Culture of Ashura
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 3 :

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Morning Exercise
08:30 Departure Anniversary of Hazrat Mohammad (S) & Martyrdom of Imam Hassan (AS)
09:10 The Tops
09:30 Reflection
10:00 Speak to Me
10:30 The Youth (in Abadan)
11:00 Departure Anniversary of Hazrat Mohammad (S) & Martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS)
13:10 Call to Prayer (Azan)



LONDON, United Kingdom (July 10): Faberge expert Dr. Geza von Habsburg holds a perfume bottle from the Meurice Mizzi collection, the largest collection of its kind in the world. The forty bottles, designed by legendary Russian jeweller and goldsmith Carl Faberge, are to be exhibited in Britain for the first time, at the Design Museum in London.

(AFP PHOTO)

World Population Could Hit 9 Billion

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) – The world's population could swell to nine billion in 30 years, depending on how hard countries try to curb population growth, the head of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said recently, according to a Reuter report here.

UNFPA executive director Nafis Sadik said during an event marking World Population Day that the UN's most optimistic population forecast was 7.6 billion by the year 2025, with nine billion being the worst-case scenario.

"The effectiveness of national policies and programs and the international community in addressing population concerns ... in the next years will determine whether the actual population number is closer to the higher or lower end," she told a news conference in this city of 18 million people.

Millions of women in the developing world still did not have control over their own family planning decisions, a key part of the UN strategy to control the world's booming population, Sadik said.

"We need to educate girls just as we educate boys. Girls need the sense just as much as boys that they can do what they want with their life and their minds," Sadik said.

Sadik met Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo earlier in the day and praised Mexico for cutting its population growth rate in half over the past twenty years.

World Population Day was launched nine years ago, when the world's population reached five billion. It currently stands at 5.8 billion, Sadik said.

Leaders' Remains May Be Moved to China

TAIPEI (AFP) – The ruling Kuomintang (KMT) is studying the possibilities of moving the remains of Chiang Kai-Shek and his son, former President Chiang Ching-Kuo, to their Chinese ancestral home, a local television station reported Friday.

"At the request of the Chiang family, the KMT authorities are studying the possibilities and details involved in sending their remains to their hometown in Zhejiang Province," the China Television Company (CTV) said.

KMT officials were not immediately available for comment.

Chinese authorities have renovated the Chiang family graveyard as a goodwill gesture, CTV said.

Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalist forces fled to Taiwan from China in 1949 after being defeated by the Chinese Communists in a civil war.

The late president had vowed to "recover the mainland" during his rule over the island until he died in 1975. His widow, Soong Mayling, lives in the United States.

Chiang Ching-Kuo, admired for having laid the foundation for Taiwan's economic prosperity and democratization, died in 1988. His widow, Chiang Fang-Liang, lives in Taipei.

The two leaders were buried in separate sites in Taoyuan, south of Taipei.

"Paradise Syndrome" Strikes Heirs of Celebrities

LONDON (Reuter) – They inherit celebrity names, appear to have it all and live apparently gilded lives, but what may at first seem like paradise can end in pain or even tragedy.

Angst has become so widespread among the descendants of superstars and the megarich that many commentators are now talking of the existence of a "paradise syndrome".

Amschel Rothschild, 41-year-old chairman of Rothschild Asset Management and great-great-great-grandson of Nathan Meyer Rothschild – who established in 1804 the Merchant Bank in the City of London that still bears his name – hanged himself in a Paris hotel room last Monday, French police said on Thursday.

Ten days ago, actress-model Margaux Hemingway, granddaughter of famed novelist Ernest Hemingway, also 41, was found dead in her apartment in the United States, 35 years after her grandfather died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Investigators await the results of laboratory tests to determine whether Margaux had taken a fatal drug or drink overdose, although an initial autopsy cited natural causes.

She took to drink as she failed to build upon the early success of her youth. Blonde and six-feet (1.8 meters) tall, she was one of the world's top models by the age of 20.

But Margaux, older sister of 34-year-old actress Mariel Hemingway, later battled both alcoholism and eating disorders and friends said she became depressed about her stalled acting career. She was treated at the Betty Ford Center in California in the late 1980s and her two marriages ended in divorce.

Descendants of celebrities face particular stresses in living up to the legacy of their forbears. They may live for ever in the shadow of their famous name, cast into the media spotlight but unable to match their success.

Actor Paul Newman lost his eldest son in 1978 following an overdose of pills and alcohol. Years later, Newman commented that: "There are about 180,000 liabilities in having me as a father. The biggest one is that there is always an element of competition between children and their parents."

Multimillionairess Christina Onassis went through four broken marriages in 16 years, suffered from intermittent obesity and died of fluid in the lungs at the age of 37.

Hollywood giant Marlon Brando gave his son Christian Brando his own private desert island playground – an atoll near Tahiti. But Christian's lifestyle changed abruptly when he received a 10-year prison sentence for murdering the allegedly abusive boyfriend of his half-sister Cheyenne.

Cheyenne later compounded the Brando misery by hanging herself.

Amschel Rothschild, a likely successor to the banking dynasty's firm, continued the flamboyant style of life of his ancestors, with a penchant for racing classic cars.

Frederick West Hanged Himself: Inquest

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) – A nine-member jury concluded Friday that Frederick West, accused of murdering 12 girls and young women in the so-called "House of Horrors" case, took his own life in prison.

The two-day inquest, traditional in British law, aimed to formally determine the circumstances of his death on New Year's day of last year. Jurors voted eight to one in favor of the suicide verdict.

West was under special surveillance at Winson Queen Prison in Birmingham and guards checked on him every half-hour around the clock.

He took advantage of a lunch break to make a noose with a sheet and hang himself.

The son of Frederick and Rosemary West said his father could not face the prospect of spending his life in prison and had been contemplating suicide.

"He was, once again, allowed to cheat the legal system and all the victims' families from doing time for all the crimes he committed," Stephen West said.

Rosemary West was convicted in November of the sexual abuse, torture and murder of her 16-year-old daughter, eight-year- old stepdaughter, and eight girls and young women over a 20-year period ending in 1987.

HK War Widows to Be Granted UK Passports

LONDON (AFP) – Plans to give British passports to a group of elderly Hong Kong war widows finally cleared Parliament Friday two months after they were scuppered by a slip in the House of Commons.

The Hong Kong War Wives and Widows (No 2) bill completed its stages through the house and now awaits royal assent before being made law.

The measure, promised by Prime Minister John Major when he visited the British colony in March, gives ministers discretion to grant British citizenship to 54 elderly war wives and widows whose husbands fought in the defense of Hong Kong during the World War II.

Tory Peer Lord Willoughby de Droke introduced the backbench bill in the Lords in May after an initial attempt to introduce the measure in the Commons was blocked in an apparent mistake by opposition Labor frontbencher Nick Brown earlier in the month.

Lagos Population to Hit 25 Million

According to an AFP report from Lagos, the population of Lagos, with a current annual growth of about seven percent, could hit the 25 million mark by 2025, making it the third largest city in the world, Nigerian Health Minister Ihechukwu Madubuike said here.

Nigeria's commercial capital, which had one million people inhabitants in 1970, shot up to about six million by 1991, according to census figures of that year, the minister said during a ceremony Thursday to mark World Population Day.

Other independent sources estimated the current population of Lagos at more than 10 million people.

Can These Pills Make You Live Longer?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration refuses to allow medical claims suggesting that large doses of vitamins can prevent disease or prolong life. "It's a mistake to allow any claims before the data are all in," says Charles Hennekens, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. "The case for these supplements is promising, but still unproven."

Should *you* take antioxidants? A look at the latest studies may help you decide.

Beginning in the 1950s, scientists found that people who eat nutritionally balanced meals are less susceptible to cancer, atherosclerosis and other degenerative illnesses. The most beneficial diets were rich in beta carotene and vitamins C and E. By now, more than 100 studies have shown the same link. The three nutrients appear to reduce cell damage caused by an unstable form of oxygen. Here's how it happens:

All cells in the body use oxygen to break down nutrients and generate energy. In humans, oxygen molecules are breathed into the lungs, then ferried via the blood to all other body tissues. The oxygen usually arrives in the form of stable molecules, each with eight pairs of orbiting electrons. But now and then an unstable form comes along, called a free radical, which has at least one *unpaired* electron.

The unpaired electron acts like a magnet, attracting an electron from a neighboring melecule in the cell be it a fat molecule or a protein. A chain reaction can ensue, in which one molecule after another in the cell pulls an electron from the next one down the line. In the process, each molecule is injured.

For 40 years, scientists have observed that free-radical injuries accumulate in cells as people age. However, no one knew whether the damage caused aging or whether aging merely allowed free-radical damage to occur. Scientists from Southern Methodist University in Dallas demonstrated that fruit flies genetically engineered to resist free-radical damage lived 30 percent longer. This was the first direct evidence that free-radical damage does indeed cause aging.

Scientists believe free radicals also play a part in certain diseases. Recent studies have demonstrated, for instance, that LDL — the so-called bad cholesterol — clogs arteries after being oxidied by free radicals. The resulting atherosclerosis can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Scientists also suspect that free radicals injure the genes that regulate cell growth. That might explain why things that generate free radicals — cigarette smoke, pollution and radiation, for instance — also promote cancer.

Our cells do make certain enzymes, called antioxidants, that prevent free-radical damage. But they are not perfectly efficient, and that's when beta carotene and vitamins C and E can come to the rescue. These, too, serve as antioxidants. Theoretically, then, they can ward off cancer, heart disease and other degenerative illnesses.

Before this antioxidant theory becomes fact, however, scientists must compare thousands of people, some of whom take antioxidants while the others get placebos. At least a dozen such trials are under way, but results won't be in for years.

In the meantime, here is what we know so far about each of the three supplements.

Beta Carotene

Beta carotene is the pigment that makes carrots, apricots, squash and cantaloupe orange. It also tints broccoli and leafy greens. Once taken into the body, it becomes one of many sources of vitamin A.

In one study, Dr. Hennekens found that men with signs of heart disease who took beta-carotene supplements experienced about half as many "vascular events," including heart attacks, strokes, coronary bypass surgeries and deaths, as those who took placebos. But beta carotene's strongest suit may be its potential to prevent cancer. In at least seven surveys, scientists have found that people who eat foods rich in beta carotene have relatively fewer cancers of the lung and digestive tract. In one of these studies conducted in Japan, the men who ate the most green and yellow vegetables were 24 percent less likely to die of cancer than those who ate the least.

Some 29,000 men over age 50, all cigarette smokers, took daily pills: some took beta carotene, others low doses of vitamin E, and the rest, placebos. Surprisingly, not only did beta carotene fail to protect the smokers from lung cancer or heart disease, but the men taking it were somewhat *more* likely to die of these illnesses.

Vitamin E

Vitamin E is found in nuts, vegetable oils, olives, asparagus, meats, leafy greens and wheat germ. Of the three antioxidants, it seems to have the strongest potential to prevent heart disease. In two recent studies, the 20 percent of subjects who consumed the most vitamin E — 20 times the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance — had one-third fewer heart attacks than did the 20 percent who consumed the least.

Vitamin E is thought to prevent cholesterol buildup in arteries. In a small study of 36 men at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, researchers found that E alone was as effective in preventing cholesterol buildup as a combined dose of E, C and beta carotene.

Vitamin E, however, appears to be less powerful in preventing cancer.

Vitamin C

Vitamin C is found in citrus fruits, strawberries, cantaloupe, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, peppers and leafy greens. Of the three main antioxidants, C is the weak sister — evidence for its ability to ward off heart disease and cancer is sketchiest.

(To be contd)

PRAYER

Noon	13:10
Evening	20:43
Dawn (tomorrow)	4:07
Sunrise (tomorrow)	6:01

TODAY IN HISTORY

1790 - France's King Louis XVI accepts the revolutionary constitution.

1958 - Iraq's King Feisal and his heir, and Premier Nuri es-Said are assassinated in Baghdad coup, and King Hussein assumes power as head of Arab Federation.

1960 - Leopoldville government severs relations with Belgium.

1967 - UN General Assembly adopts resolution asking Israel to halt action it was taking to alter city of Jerusalem after six-day war.

1971 - Government troops in Jordan attempt to crush Palestine guerrilla movement.

1988 - Iran, at United Nations, accuses United States of committing "barbaric crime" in shooting down Iranian commercial airliner.

1989 - Leaders of world's Seven richest nations open annual summit in Paris, with talks focused on economic struggles in eastern Europe.

1990 - British Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley resigns after publication of interview in which he accused Germany of trying to take over Europe and called French obedient "poodles" to Germans.

1991 - Chances for Middle East peace talks improve when Syria's President Hafez Assad says he finds U.S. President Bush's proposals for such talks "acceptable."

1992 - Navy helicopters and volunteers rescue 44 beached whales in Sydney, Australia.

1993 - Militiamen fire on UN headquarters in a new wave of assaults hours after Somali militants distribute leaflets calling for revenge attacks on American soldiers.

1994 - The UN Security Council urges the world community to come to the aid of the estimated 250,000 frightened Hutu refugees crushed into the border town of Goma, Zaire.

1995 - While the United Nations struggles to feed thousands of Muslims driven from Srebrenica, Bosnian Serbs order government forces and civilians to leave another eastern enclave.

THOUGHT

LOVE is not enough. It must be the foundation, the cornerstone - but not the complete structure. It is much too pliable, too yielding.

Anonymous

TOMORROW

1601 - Austria's Archduke Albert, with Spanish force, begins siege of Ostend.

1685 - Duke of Monmouth is beheaded in England for his part in rebellion.

1789 - France's King Louis XVI is awakened and told that his authority has collapsed with the fall of the Bastille.

1801 - France and Papacy sign concordat whereby French ecclesiastics are to be appointed by government and merely confirmed by Pope.

1822 - Turkish invasion of Greece begins, and Turks overrun Peninsula north of Gulf of Corinth but later are forced to retreat.

1857 - British women and children, taken by Indians at Cawnpore in India, are murdered.

1893 - Matabeles stage uprising against rule of British South Africa Company.

1909 - Mohammed Ali, Shah of Iran, is deposed in favor of Sultan Ahmad Shah, age 12.

1945 - Italy declares war on Japan, its former axis partner, in World War II.

1948 - UN Security Council orders truce in Palestine.

1958 - United States dispatches troops to Lebanon at request of President Chamoun. South Africa resumes full membership in United Nations.

1965 - U.S. Mariner IV spacecraft sends to Earth first closeup photographs of planet Mars.

1974 - Greek officers of army in Cyprus oust Archbishop Makarios from presidency.

1975 - America's Apollo and Soviet Union's Soyuz spacecraft blast into orbit for rendezvous in space.

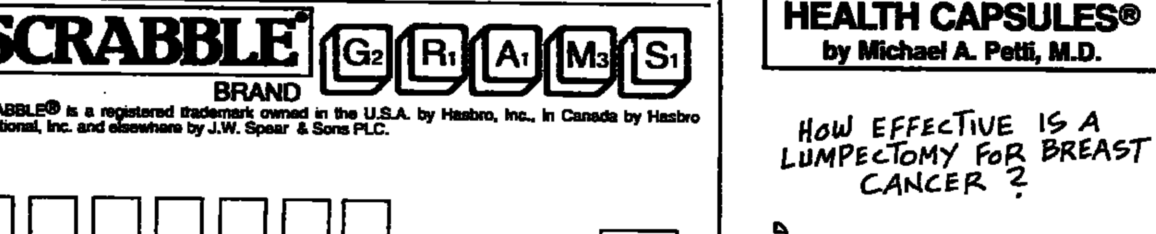
1988 - Afghan rebels blast capital city of Kabul with rockets, killing 20 people and wounding 24 others.

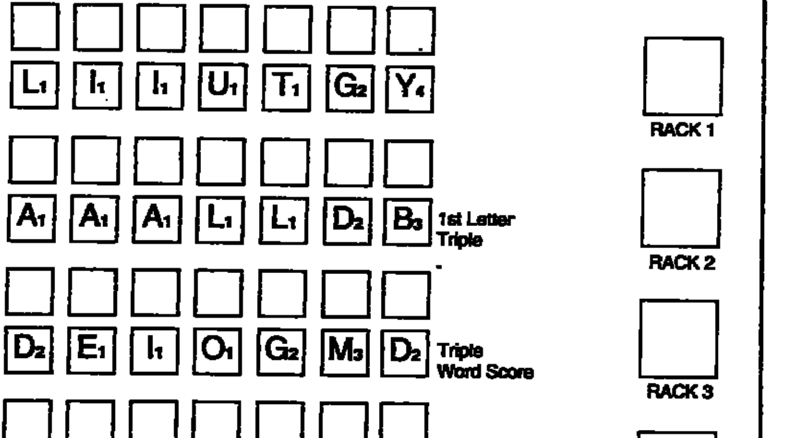
1990 - Tens of thousands of people march to Kremlin walls to protest Communist Party control of Soviet government, army and KGB.

1991 - World's seven biggest industrial democracies open annual economic summit in London.

1992 - Pope John Paul II has a benign tumor removed.

1994 - An airborne broadcast from exiled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide promises that the day of Haiti's delivery is at hand.





PAR SCORE 110-120

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

11-22-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

M3	I1	D2	W4	I1	F4	E1	RACK 1 =	98
Q10	U1	I1	C3	K5	E1	N1	RACK 2 =	116
G2	U1	M3	D2	R1	O1	P3	RACK 3 =	63
S1	O1	R1	C3	E1	R1	Y4	RACK 4 =	74

PAR SCORE 230-240 JUDD'S TOTAL 351

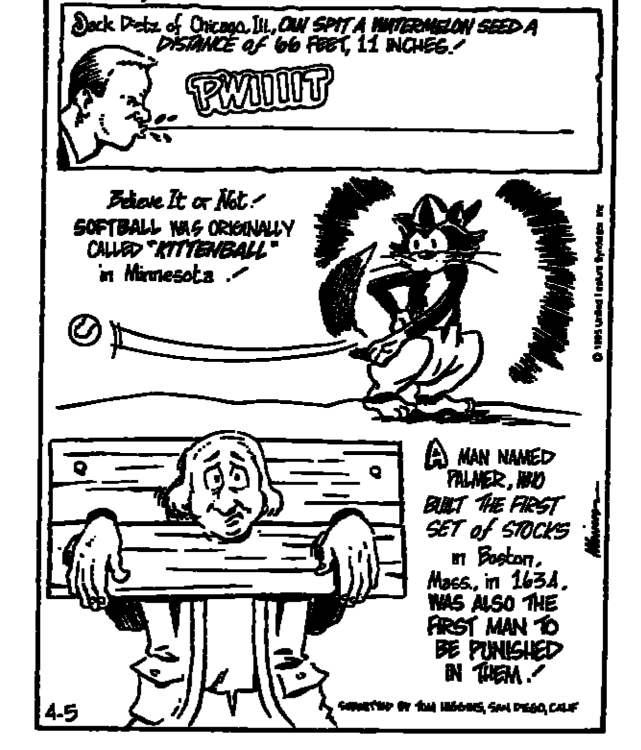
11-21-94

HOW EFFECTIVE IS A LUMPECTOMY FOR BREAST CANCER?

JUD HURD 9/10 © 1994 UFS, Inc.

UNLESS THE LUMP IS LARGE, REMOVING THE LUMP AND HAVING RADIATION SEEMS JUST AS EFFECTIVE AS REMOVING THE ENTIRE BREAST.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.



FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr



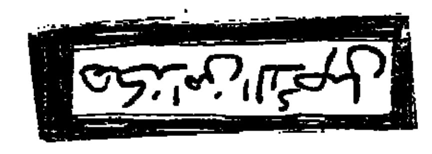
NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist











هكذا من الأصل

Liberian Gov
Complete Disarm

Finnish Foreign M
Urges End to Min

Liberian Government Pledges Complete Disarmament by December

MONROVIA (AFP) — Liberian militia fighters who have shot down a dozen peace accords in six years will be completely disarmed by December, a member of the transitional government said Friday.

"The key to achieving peace in Liberia is disarmament," said Alhaji Kromah, one of the three faction leaders sitting on the six-member council of state. He chaired a cabinet meeting held Thursday, the first since April when Monrovia was engulfed in battles between rival factions.

Overall, an estimated 60,000 fighters are involved in Liberia's conflict.

All warring factions "will be completely disarmed by next December," Kromah told cabinet members.

The ruling council, three members of which attended the meeting, was "committed to the achievement of disarmament," he said.

Under a peace accord signed by all faction leaders in Abuja, Nigeria last August, disarmament should already have been completed. That peace accord was the latest in a dozen or so signed since Liberia's civil war broke out in 1989.

Under the latest one, African peacekeepers were to deploy in this West African country founded by freed American slaves. But the deployment, key to disarming the factions, came to a halt in December after at least 20 troops in the peacekeeping force known as Ecomog were killed in clashes with the ethnic Krahn wing of a faction called the United Liberation Movement.

Kromah said the council would "prioritize disarmament as preparations were being made for free and fair democratic elections." He did not specify a date for the polls. Under the Abuja accord, they had been planned for August.

Thursday's government meeting was the first since factional clashes broke out early April in Monrovia and raged for seven weeks.

All the factions say they want peace but fighters continue to battle on several fronts, both in the southeast and the northwest of the country.

On other matters, the cabinet agreed to pay civil servants two of seven months of salary arrears, the statement from Kromah said.

It has also told the governor of the Central Bank and the ministers of commerce, planning and finance to ensure essential goods such as rice and gasoline were made widely available.

Since April, a gasoline shortage had left many Monrovia residents unable to pay the inflated costs of transport.

This week, the government authorized a private company to sell gasoline for 150 Liberian dollars ($3) per gallon, three times the pre-April price, but less than a sixth of the price charged at the height of the shortage.

More than 150,000 people have been killed in Liberia since a rebellion launched in December 1989 against longtime dictator Samuel Doe degenerated into a brutal conflict involving at least seven armed factions.

"Urgent Action" Needed to Avoid Ecological Disaster in Black Sea

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Urgent action is needed to stave off an ecological catastrophe in the Black Sea, participants at a three-day international conference here said in their final declaration Friday.

The participants - some 70 members of parliament and 100 experts from 25 countries neighboring the black sea - also asked that 1998 be named year of protecting the Black and Mediterranean seas" as a way of fostering understanding on the problems plaguing the two bodies of water.

As a signpost of the damage caused to the environment, the conference heard that due to 30 years of heavy pollution, the annual tonnage of fish caught in the Black Sea had dropped from 900,000 tons in 1986 to 100,000 tons five years later.

To underscore the international nature of the problem, experts noted that European rivers like the Danube and the Dniepr, which drain waters from 13 European countries, contribute 90 percent of the pollutants flowing into the Black Sea.

The conference called for the establishment of an international forum comprising the six countries bordering the Black Sea and the 13 countries whose waters - and pollutants - eventually end up there.

"Pollution in the Black Sea will now become a part of the European agenda," Zurab Jvania, president of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Parliamentary Assemblies, said at a press conference after the adoption of the final declaration.

The six countries that border the Black Sea are Bulgaria, Romania, the Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Turkey. The 13 neighboring countries are Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, the Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Croatia.

The introduction of toxic waste, radioactive material and hydrocarbons into the sea were cited as sources of the ecological degradation.

The Danube River alone carries about 500,000 tons of nitrates, 40,000 tons of phosphorus and 50,000 tons of oil in addition to large quantities of mercury, metal and chrome, Romanian member of Parliament Ivanciu Nicolae-Vaelanu said in a presentation.

Two of those agents, nitrates and phosphorus, are greatly responsible for the diminishing fish populations experts said.

The two agents have led to an overproduction of phytoplankton that in turn block sunlight from reaching algae and herbs that play a vital role in the food chain.

The dniepr, which provides 80 percent of the Ukraine's water, and is extensively exploited by Russia and Belarus, follows the Danube in contributing to rising pollution levels.

Another problem with the world's largest interior sea is its lack of an outlet, experts said. The only body of water connecting the Black Sea to the ocean is the narrow and shallow Bosporus Strait.

While the Black Sea is 2,000 meters (yards) deep in some areas, the Bosporus only descends to 70 meters, and in some areas is only 700 meters wide.

The program was organized by the parliamentary assemblies of the European council. It receives its funding from the European Union and the United States.

Chinese Donation of 100,000 Tons of Food New Sign of Warming Ties

SEOUL (AFP) — China has informed North Korea that Beijing will donate 100,000 tons of additional food aid free of charge in yet another sign of warming ties, the North's official media said Friday.

"Luo Gan, state councillor and secretary general of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, on a visit to Korea, informed (North Korean) Vice President Ri Jong-Ok of the decision," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

KCNA called the decision "a clear manifestation of the warm friendship and amity of the Chinese party and government headed by Comrade (President) Jiang Zemin for the Korean people."

No details of the kind of food to be offered, or when it would be sent, were given, but the gesture came amid a highly publicized warming of ties between Beijing and Pyongyang in the past month.

Relations between the two, once described as "as close as lips and teeth," degenerated sharply after Beijing recognized the South Korean government and China started demanding hard cash payments from its old comrade in arms.

And in 1995 Jiang Zemin infuriated Pyongyang by making an official visit to Seoul, despite rumors at the time that Jiang had tried and failed to make a parallel visit to Pyongyang at the time.

But on Wednesday top Chinese leaders including Premier Li Peng made a point of publicly stressing the close ties between the two during a visit to Bejing by North Korea's Vice Premier Kim Yun Hyok.

And on Thursday KCNA quoted visiting Chinese Vice Admiral Wang Jiying as saying that Sino-Korean friendship "forged and developed by the leaders of the old generation" had "overcome the trials of history."

The relationship has "a great viability and has struck deep roots in the mind of the two peoples and the two armies," Wang was quoted as saying at a banquet.

"It is the steadfast policy of the party and government of China to constantly consolidate and develop the friendship," added Wang, commander of the North China sea fleet.

Wang's Flotilla is on an historic call to North Korea's Nampo Port to mark the 35th anniversary of the Sino-North Korean treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

The arrival of the Flotilla -- two guided missile destroyers, the flagship Harbin and the Xining -- marked the first at a North Korean port by any foreign warship since the former Soviet Pacific fleet came to Wonson in 1985.

Lo Guan visited Pyongyang to attend celebrations signed on July 11, 1961 by the late Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai and the late North Korean Leader Kim Il-Sung.

KCNA said Lo Guan had in a meeting with North Korean Vice President Ri Jong-Ok on Thursday conveyed "warm greetings" from Jiang Zemin, Li Peng and other members of the standing committee of China's Communist Party to Kim Jong-Il, their reclusive son and designated successor to Kim Il-Sung.

Ri asked the greetings to be reciprocated, KCNA said.

North Korea has been suffering dire food shortages since last year, when in the wake of disastrous floods it made an unprecedented call for international food aid.

Fears have been expressed by Western and other diplomats that should the situation deteriorate China could face an influx of starving refugees.

Beijing, which is trying to keep a careful equidistant policy between the two politically-hostile Koreas has agreed to play a part in four-way peace talks proposed by Seoul and Washington.

However it has made it clear that it would not want to go against the wishes of Pyongyang, which has neither accepted nor rejected the Tal's proposal in which the two Koreas would be the main interlocutors, with China and the United States playing a support role.

Finnish Foreign Minister Urges End to Mine Use

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen on Friday called for an end to the use of Finnish anti-personnel mines and supported the creation of an international mine ban.

In an interview published in the Helsinki dailies *Savon Sanomat* and *Turun Sanomat*, Halonen said that "if international talks on a mine ban were to start immediately, we would have enough time to find additional funding" to replace Finland's land and sea mines.

Halonen said that she would be prepared to finance the move with funds outside the country's tight budget.

Replacing the mines, which are a vital part of the Finnish defense, would cost hundreds of millions of Finnish marks, according to experts.

At an international conference on mines in Snekkersten, Denmark on July 2-4, United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for an international total mine ban.

Each year, mines kill or maim 25,000 people, including large numbers of civilians and children.



Mandela Greeted by Carnival Atmosphere in Brixton

LONDON (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela arrived in south London's Brixton neighborhood on Friday, to be greeted with a tumultuous reception from the residents of one of Britain's most volatile, racially-mixed districts.

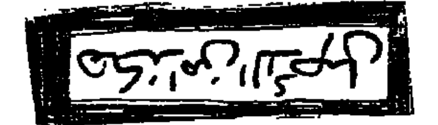
As Mandela, dressed in a gray and green shirt, walked up the steps of the Brixton community center, the crowd massed in the narrow street below him erupted into a huge roar.

"We want Nelson" they chanted, as sound systems from nearby pumped out a loud reggae beat. Hundreds of young black men dressed in trainers and gold necklaces thronged around.

A band of bare-chested black musicians playing Samba and reggae added to the carnival atmosphere.

Mandela was due to spend 15 minutes in the community center, and then tour the market in Brixton, where people were already massed, hoping to get the chance to shake the hand of the African hero.

Prince Charles was to accompany Mandela on his walkabout through Brixton, which was shaken by a string of race riots in the 1980s.



Galileo Probe Sends Sharp Images of Jupiter Moon

PASADENA, California (Reuter) – The Galileo space probe has sent back stunningly sharp images of Jupiter's largest moon, revealing what NASA scientists said recently is a frigid surface covered with ridges, volcanic craters and signs of "ice" quakes similar to earthly tremors.

"The images are absolutely incredible, 20 times better than the ones we got from the Voyager craft," said Jim Head, a leader of the camera imaging team on the Galileo project.

"We are just dumbfounded at the resolution of the images," he told a news conference at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here.

Head said the images, which came from Galileo's flyby of the moon Ganymede on June 26-27, forced scientists to re-evaluate some of their conclusions about the moon that had been formed from fuzzy images taken in 1979 by unmanned Voyager missions.

One major discovery from Galileo's initial data indicated Ganymede has a strong magnetic force, said Galileo project scientist Torrance Johnson.

The unmanned Galileo probe was launched in 1989 and traveled 400 million miles (640 million km) to reach Jupiter's atmosphere last December. It flew within 520 miles (835 km) of Ganymede — 70 times closer than Voyager missions.

Speed-of-light radio transmission from Galileo takes from 35 minutes to one hour to reach receivers on earth.

"It's been like Christmas every day to come into the lab and see new images," said Head, a vulcanologist at Brown University. "No one has got any sleep in the last 10 days."

His colleague Robert Pappalardo said Voyager's images gave only a "global perspective" whereas the new pictures and data allow scientists to zoom in on the moon's surface and compare the same areas shot in 1979.

One image showed 30-40 ridges in one area, compared to a Voyager shot that showed only five. Another Voyager image, he said, resembled "a glazed doughnut in a sea of fudge."

"Now we can see it is probably a volcanic crater surrounded by a dark substance that may be volcanic or erosional," said Pappalardo.

Ganymede, with a diameter of 3,269 miles (5,262 km), is the largest moon in the solar system, bigger than the planet Mercury and about three-quarters the size of Mars. By comparison, earth's moon is 2,155 miles (3,468 km) across.

NASA scientists believe it is composed of half water-ice and half rock. Portions of the surface are relatively bright, clean ice, while other regions are covered with darker "dirty ice."

Darker areas appear to be ancient and heavily-cratered, while lighter regions show evidence of tectonic activity that may have broken up the icy crust, NASA said.

"It's about one-third the size of earth, but so cold — hundreds of degrees below zero whichever system you use," said Head.

"You can see a series of ridges, and there's a valley like the San Andreas fault," he said, pointing out the feature on a black-and-white image and referring to the major fault-line in California.

Asked whether seismic activity on Ganymede was similar to quakes on earth, Head said: "It's difficult to measure the magnitude of ice-quakes, but the size of the ridges look similar to those formed by earthquakes in southern California."

He said there was evidence of "liquid water" inside the moon, but that during volcanic eruptions, it would have been expelled into the frigid atmosphere where it immediately formed hard rock.

Galileo project manager William O'Neill said NASA was delighted with the performance of the Galileo probe, and there had only been a couple of minor technical problems.

"Don't forget we've only played back 10 percent from this first encounter so far," he said, noting that Galileo was scheduled to pass by Ganymede three more times as well as Jupiter's other moons Io, Callisto and Europa before the end of the mission in December 1997.

Johnson summed up the scientists' satisfaction with the data and images so far.

"I've been looking at Jupiter most of my life, through telescopes as a child, as a scientist, and the last time I was there vicariously was on Voyager," he said. "Now I have a message: Earth to Jupiter — we're back."

AIDS Situation Explosive in India

BOMBAY (Reuter) – Meena, a young widow who tested HIV positive a year ago, has suffered so much she is no longer scared of AIDS.

"My husband and two children have died after they tested HIV positive," Meena, told Reuters this week. "I have lived through so much tragedy I'm not scared any more."

Her voice was resolute and her attitude almost defiant.

Meena is among the estimated 200,000 HIV positive cases reported in Bombay, India's bustling commercial capital of 13 million people.

"I find the situation quite explosive," said I.S. Gilada, a doctor at the forefront of India's campaign against AIDS since 1985, when the first case was reported in the country.

Gilada's Indian Health Organization (IHO), a voluntary agency, has been working in Bombay's red-light district, housing 70,000 prostitutes.

"Nearly 65 percent of these have tested HIV positive," said Gilada. "There is no single country where there are so many HIV cases. India is second to one (China) in population and second to none in HIV," Gilada said.

"This figure could inflate to 15-20 million by the turn of the century if no serious efforts are made to prevent the spread of AIDS," he said. How to curb the disease is among issues discussed at the 11th International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver which concluded yesterday.

In the last 10 years, the attitude of Indian officials towards the existence of AIDS has drastically changed — from disbelief and denials in 1985 to an awareness bordering on panic now.

Officials said India's western state of Maharashtra and its capital Bombay accounted for a large proportion of the total number of AIDS cases reported in India.

"It's a fairly serious problem. We are treating it as a priority," said Subhash Salunke, the state health director.

Salunke said the state was focussing on educating certain target groups such as students and sex workers about the dangers of AIDS.

"We have already covered 300,000 students in Bombay alone," he said. "We have no shortage of funds as far as fighting AIDS is concerned."

Along the narrow lanes of the city's crowded red-light district of Kamatipura, the IHO's mobile clinic winds its way handing out free condoms for prostitutes and prospective clients.

Mumtaj, an emaciated and sickly woman, climbed into the mobile clinic with some effort, for a check up.

"I have no appetite. No desire to eat or drink," she said in a voice as thin as a whisper, adding she had been sick for more than a year and did not know what she had been suffering from.

Manda, a young social worker, said the response to IHO's AIDS awareness program had been satisfactory.

"This is a red-light area. Here girls do business to make a living," Manda explained as she demonstrated the use of condoms to a small crowd of curious onlookers.

"We go to every girl and tell her that AIDS is very dangerous and it has no remedy," Manda said as she passed condoms around.

She smiled brightly as youngsters in the crowd quickly snapped up the condoms before disappearing into the dark recesses of the dimly-lit area.

"My husband and two children have died after they tested HIV positive," Meena, told Reuters this week. "I have lived through so much tragedy I'm not scared any more."

"... This figure could inflate to 15-20 million by the turn of the century if no serious efforts are made to prevent the spread of AIDS."






NEW YORK, NY, United States (July 8): Wildlife biologist Steven Garber of JFK International Airport's Bird Hazard Management Program releases a peregrine falcon for flight over the airport in New York. The birds of prey are being released as part of a four month air safety experiment to scare away resident ducks, geese and gulls that may be sucked into or damage aircraft engines.

(AFP PHOTO)

Rothschild Heir Took His Own Life in Paris Hotel

PARIS (AFP) – Amschel Rothschild, the heir to the British banking dynasty who was discovered hanged in a Paris hotel room, took his own life, the NM Rothschild Sons Bank confirmed Thursday.

Initial inquiries by French police indicated that he seemed depressed shortly before his death, but that he had left no note to explain why he might have taken his life. A postmortem was being carried out.

His body was found at 7:30 p.m. (1730 GMT) on Monday in the posh Bristol Hotel in Paris, where he had gone for business meetings.

The 41-year-old married father of three, who was of the sixth generation of the banking family, was considered the most likely successor to Sir Evelyn de Rothschild as chairman of NM Rothschild.

His death throws open the succession question once again, with the prospect of a member of the group's French branch, David de Rothschild, taking over.

He was the son of Victor Rothschild, a noted scientist and advisor to former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, and was half-brother to Jacob, the present Lord Rothschild.

Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said he was being touted as the next chairman because Sir Evelyn's own two children were considered too young.

The banking dynasty was founded in the early 19th century by Mayer Amschel Rothschild, who told his five sons to form banks in Frankfurt, London, Naples, Paris and Vienna.

The English branch, formed in 1804, made its fortune backing the Duke of Wellington in the wars against Napoleon, negotiating loans for the British government.

Amschel Rothschild was more at home on his Suffolk farm in southeast England than in the world of high finance, colleagues said. He entered banking at the age of 32 more out of a sense of family duty than desire.

He was educated at Cambridge University and City University, London, and spent several years managing the Suffolk farm before joining the bank in 1987.

He also had a passion for motorcycles and driving Formula 3 cars.

He worked as a personal assistant to his cousin and in 1990 was made chief executive of Rothschild Asset Management in 1990. It was losing money then and still was at the time of his death.

Amschel Rothschild was noted for his discretion and traditional banking values at a time when high finance seemed to have been taken over by thrusting young bucks out to make a quick killing on the markets.

His death opens the question of succession again. When David de Rothschild was appointed deputy head of the British branch, observers said it could be a first step on the path to taking over from Sir Evelyn.

He was married to Anita Guinness, daughter of the banker James Guinness.

Matsushita Unveils DVD Players

NEW YORK (AP) – Matsushita on Thursday unveiled its first machines that play a new kind of compact disc for movies. But like its big competitors, Matsushita said it couldn't be sure when they would go on sale.

The top U.S. executives of the world's biggest electronics company said production is expected to begin in Japan soon, in time for delivery to the United States in October and sales by the holidays.

Other electronics firms in recent weeks have announced delays in their rollout plans, citing unresolved disputes in the way the disks, called DVDs, would be protected against piracy and how the inventors would be paid.

During a news conference, Matsushita executives appeared firm that they would have DVD players available by October, a contrast to the uncertainty expressed by rival firms. One executive suggested Matsushita could proceed with a piracy protection method of its own.

But after the news conference, another executive said the company's sale target dates are not firm because of the industry-wide effort to solve the piracy and licensing matters.

"We are very, very hopeful this process will resolve itself for us to ship by the end of 1996," said Ronn Richard, vice president for technology and planning at Matsushita Electric Corp. of America.

Matsushita also announced a $30 million investment in new DVD facilities in California. Another still to be built will be used to produce the disks, supplementing an existing Matsushita DVD manufacturing site in Japan.

DVDs, sometimes called digital video disks or digital versatile disks, are the same size as existing CDs but hold 7 to 14 times as much data. That's enough to hold 100 million phone listings or a full-length movie with better sound and video quality than videotape.

The disks are expected to eventually replace regular CDs for software and music and takeover the pre-recorded videotape market for movies. Old CDs for music and software will still work in DVD players.

Matsushita demonstrated two DVD players to be sold under its Panasonic brand name. Pricing has not been set.



Japanese Students Forget Hiroshima A-Bomb

TOKYO (Reuter) — Over half the schoolchildren in Hiroshima, the Japanese city where the first atomic bomb was dropped in World War II, do not remember the exact date and time when it occurred, a survey has showed.

In the first such survey in nine years conducted by teachers in Hiroshima, only 45.2 percent of the children could remember that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945.

The previous survey in 1987 showed 62.4 percent of the students could state the exact date and time.

"It's a shocking result...we must review immediately how we carry out our education on peace," said a representative of the group that conducted the survey.

The survey put 25 questions on the atomic bomb and nuclear issues to 4,700 students attending the 42 elementary and 26 junior high schools in Hiroshima prefecture.

Asked what they thought about dropping an atomic bomb, 55.8 percent said "it was an unforgivable act to mankind," compared to 70.5 percent in the previous survey.

More students said "it couldn't be helped because it was during the war," and "the bomb was dropped to end the war earlier," compared to the earlier survey.

Security Council Extends Mandate of UN Observers Until Jan. 31

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council agreed Friday to keep UN military observers in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia until Jan. 31 and demanded that ethnic separatists allow refugees to return to their homes.

In a unanimous vote, the 15-member council also urged ethnic secessionists, who seized the Black Sea region of Abkhazia in 1993, to negotiate autonomy with the Georgian government.

About 250,000 ethnic Georgians fled their homes in 13 months of fighting. The Georgian government has offered Abkhazia broad autonomy on condition it remains part of Georgia, but the separatists demand full independence.

"The Abkhazian leadership acts as if an independent Abkhazia were possible," deputy U.S. Ambassador Karl Inderfurth told the council. "It is not."

About 125 UN military observers from 23 countries, including the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China and Bangladesh, are also stationed there along with 1,500 Russian troops.

The Russians are there with UN blessing under a mandate from the former Soviet republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In a report July 1, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said little progress had been made toward a settlement because the Georgian government and Abkhazian separatists could not agree on the future status of the region.

Boutros-Ghali said the bankrupt United Nations could not continue maintaining observers in Georgia unless the two sides showed a genuine interest in resolving their differences.

In its resolution, the council also demanded that the Abkhazians set a firm timetable for allowing ethnic Georgians to return to their homes in Abkhazia and to guarantee the safety of those who go home.

The council affirmed its support for the "sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Georgia, condemned ethnic killings and violence and criticized the laying of landmines in the Gali region which separates the communities.

Chechen Town, Ringed by Russians, Waits for the Worst

VEDENO, Russia (AFP) — It was Friday, the Muslim day of prayer in this encircled Chechen mountain village, and the few who are still here divide their time between praying at the local mosque and dreading the Russian helicopters which circle menacingly overhead.

The streets are deserted. Many have fled. The remaining 3,000 feel abandoned and confused by the resumption of a ruthless Russian offensive despite what they thought was a cease-fire.

Khamid, a local separatist fighter, fulminates against the 'naivete' of his superiors. "Don't they know their history? Don't they know that Russia never kept its word?"

Russian troops, closing in on guerilla strongholds in southern Chechnya on Friday on day four of massive air and artillery bombardments, completely surrounder Vedeno, sealing off all access roads except one leading down into the valley, the local Chechen Commander Sultan Sibiyev told AFP.

Warplanes bombed roads and fields around Vedeno on Friday, in what the combatant said was an attempt to limit their movements.

Sibiyev examined the surrounding landscape through binoculars. "They're there, there, there," he said, referring to the foe.

He pointed out three hills where Russian forces have dug in with their armored vehicles.

A villager, Ayup Tukhapshov, father of four, said of the Russian forces: "They'll be back. It'll be the fourth time — and they'll pillage and they'll rob like they did before."

"My children have to live in a cellar," he said. "They're ill and we're afraid of the bombing."

His friend Yussup said bitterly: "with these (previous peace) talks, we couldn't help but hope. But at heart we knew Yeltsin only wanted a bit of respite so that he could win the election."

Grad multiple rocket launchers hurled a salvo on Vedeno on Wednesday, but there were no casualties. On Wednesday separatist fighters also engaged a Russian unit trying to take up position to the east of Vedeno.

Hostilities lasted all day, then the separatists broke off, leaving only 15 men in charge of the village, while they dispersed into the hills to harass the enemy.

Russian forces replied by bombing all the mountain roads. Four times on Friday their bombers attacked the outskirts of Vedeno, with 10 heavy bombs rocking the ground inside the village.

The offensive, launched only a week after President Boris Yeltsin's reelection victory, shattered a fragile cease-fire that had held for nearly six weeks.

Dozens of civilians are reported to have been killed and wounded in the offensive, but precise figures have been impossible to obtain because federal troops sealed off roads to the mountain villages.

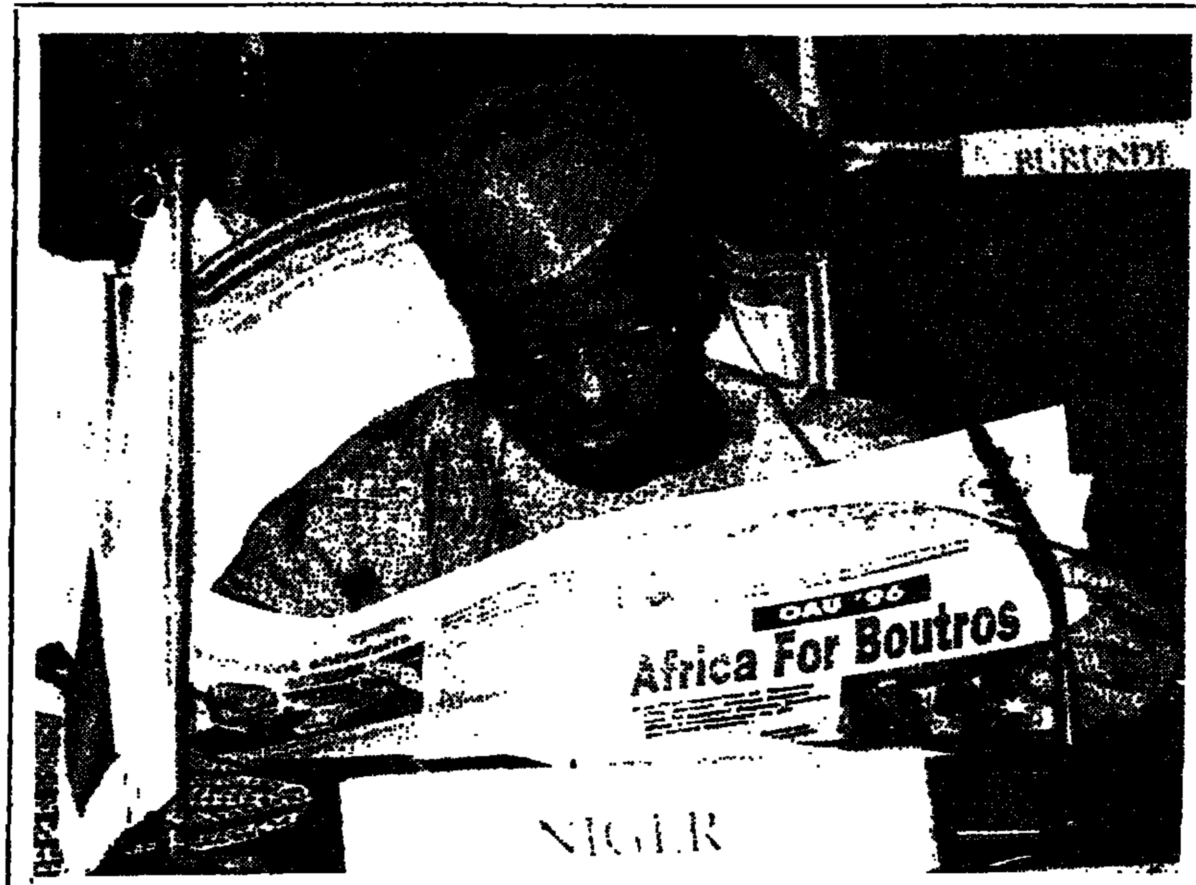
At Vedeno's hospital, head doctor Baiguini Baismakhanov and a few nurses watched over the practically deserted wards.

Only four villages are still linked by road to Vedeno and 15 injured hit by Russian shelling were evacuated Thursday.

Nobody has any idea of how many have been killed here, Muslim tradition demanding that the dead be buried immediately.

In Moscow, Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov said the Russian leadership "remains committed to the peace accords."

But in Vedeno, separatist fighter Khamid said: "We'll fight on everywhere. They can send two million soldiers. They'll never conquer a people that has fought for three hundred years."



YAOUNDE, Cameroon (July 11): A member of the Niger group at the OAU summit in Yaounde, Cameroon reads a local paper with the heading "Africa For Boutros." The UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked African leaders at the summit to defy U.S. opinion and support his bid for a second term in office. Rwanda lashed out at Boutros-Ghali saying "he betrayed the African people," in the way he dealt with the situation in Rwanda.

(AFP PHOTO)

Vietnam, U.S. Ties Still Steeped in Complexity

HANOI (Reuter) — A year after the fanfare of Washington and Hanoi's normalization of diplomatic ties, progress on trade and political issues between the Vietnam war adversaries appears to have hit obstacles.

U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake is due to arrive in Hanoi on Friday to test the waters for himself, but the public image of peacetime ties over the past 12 months has been that of a relationship still beset by complexities.

Since normalization, a year ago on Friday, Hanoi has slammed Washington over issues ranging from policy towards Cuba to "peaceful evolution" plots and FBI campaigns against Vietnamese spies.

In trade terms, progress has been unspectacular. Most favored nation trading status, export-import bank financing, insurance from the overseas private investment corporation and other essential trade mechanisms remain unfulfilled goals.

But both Vietnamese and U.S. diplomats say the surface appearances camouflage the reality.

"Perhaps we were overly optimistic about the speed at which it would develop," says Desaix Anderson, charge d'affaires at the American Embassy in Hanoi.

"(But) we're beginning to develop a sense of trust and confidence... even though things may not be dramatic we are developing a relationship across the board."

Vietnamese party intellectuals tend to agree. It took 20 years for the two countries to normalize ties after the Vietnam war. The fact that only slim apparent progress can be seen one year later is, they say, a reflection of underlying attitudes.

"The Americans always talk about 'Vietnam syndrome'," says a senior Hanoi academic. "But you have to remember we have also a U.S. syndrome... you could call it an enemy syndrome.

"Things may be slow. But underneath that is the fact we need each other."

Lake's visit is scheduled to include a trip to a site in central Vietnam, where the search continues for remains of U.S. servicemen missing since the Vietnam war.

But Vietnamese analysts say regional security will also feature prominently.

"The Cold War may be over but the situation in East Asia facing Vietnam is no less dangerous today," says the academic.

"Both governments know the MIA (missing-in-action) issue is irrelevant to reality. But you notice we go out of our way to help.

United States diplomats draw back from such suggestions.

"Well I've felt that Vietnam wishes very much to develop a relationship with the United States quickly..." says Anderson.

"But I don't think there's a balancing act going on... we've made very clear that our relationship with Vietnam is with Vietnam. It's not directed at anyone else."

Nonetheless, Lake's visit comes on the heels of Chinese Premier Li Peng's guest appearance at Vietnam's late-June Communist Party Congress. Li was the most senior Chinese or Soviet figure ever to attend one of these important conclaves.

It also comes only months after a flare-up of tension between Washington and Beijing as mainland Chinese military exercises were held during presidential elections in Taiwan.

Vietnamese academics point out that Clinton's administration has continued to develop relations despite a busy domestic agenda during an election year.

"First he nominated Pete Peterson as ambassador (to Hanoi)," says a Hanoi commentator. "Then, in May, he also revoked an order to say that Vietnam should be regarded as a combat zone. It's not about Vietnam. Clinton knows that China is important."

UN Security Council Renews Angola Force for 3 Months

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter) — The Security Council on Thursday extended the UN peacekeeping operation in Angola for three months but said progress in implementing the two-year-old peace accords was still behind schedule.

"We are now reaching the most decisive junction in the peace process for a country that has not known peace for 30 years," Angolan Gen. Higini Carneiro, head of his government's negotiating team, told the council.

The council in particular criticized former rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for being too slow in quartering its troops and especially its heavy weapons, which are to be turned over to UN troops.

"The quartering and disarming of UNITA troops are crucial components of the peace process which are fundamental to its success," the council said in a resolution adopted unanimously.

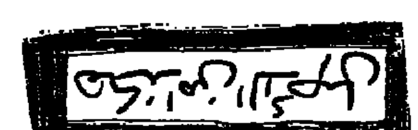
It also told the Angolan government to "take the required corrective measures regarding the withdrawal movememts." The government on Wednesday suspended integration of former UNITA fighters into the Angolan armed forces, accusing the movement of deceit.

The UN mission is targeted for completion in February 1997, but it is renewed for short periods regularly to maintain pressure on the Angolan government and UNITA to live up to an accord signed in Lusaka, Zambia, in November 1994, ending nearly two decades of civil war.

France's ambassador Alain Dejammet, the current council president, warned that "it was important for the parties to understand that the United Nations will not remain indefinitely in Angola."

There was little sympathy for UNITA among the 15 council members, who were joined in the debate by South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Tanzania, Tunisia, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Cape Verde, Brazil and Portugal.

A total of 18 UNITA generals and 26,000 fighters are due to be incorporated into a single army. The UN Angola verification mission (UNAVEM III), includes 7,200 soldiers, police and civilians and is the United Nations' biggest operation.



N. Ireland Police Are Damned by Both Sides

BELFAST (Reuter) — Northern Ireland's police, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, are damned if they do and damned if they don't, says their chief. Whether they protect Protestants or Roman Catholics, they become taunted, hated targets.

"As usual, the RUC is caught between a rock and a hard place," said chief constable Sir Hugh Annesley when he announced a ban on a parade by the Protestant Orange Order along the Catholic Garvaghy Road in the town of Portadown last Saturday.

It was a landmark decision, reversing a route Protestants had used for years, and was intended to ease Catholics' worries — a stated aim of an Anglo-Irish peace process meant to reconcile the province's pro-Irish minority Catholics and pro-British majority Protestants.

Instead it lit the blue touch paper of the worst civil unrest in Northern Ireland for years. Protestants went on the rampage in a trial of strength with the police and government over what they see as their right to parade where they will.

Annesley knew it would be a controversial decision. He said he took it to avoid a replay of riots which erupted at the same place last year when Catholics tried to block the path of the Orange Order march.

He allowed that parade to go ahead but banned it from returning to Portadown through the Garvaghy Road area, a mile (two km) of which passes through Catholic housing estates on the edge of town.

Whatever Annesley had decided over this year's march would have been assailed by one community or the other. "As usual, we are damned if we do and damned if we don't," he said.

The RUC is caught in the middle of the political conflict between those who want Northern Ireland to remain British and those who want it united with the Irish Republic.

The force's 13,000 men and women, 92 percent of them Protestant, are the thin front line against civil disorder, with 17,500 soldiers backing them up in times of severe unrest.

Unlike the troops, who live behind barbed wire barricades, the policemen and policewomen live in the communities they are supposed to protect. Many admit privately that they live in fear.

The Catholics they are defending regard them as a sectarian pro-British force and want them disbanded.

Two weeks ago they were petrol-bombed and showered with stones fired by Catholics demonstrating against an Orange march through the Catholic Cliftonville Road area of Belfast. They were spat on, kicked and showered with bricks.

This week, when the first crush of protesters pushed against police lines blocking the path of the Orange march through Garvaghy Road, a shout rang out from the crowd.

"Are your houses insured?" called a young man wearing a gray suit with an Orange sash across his shoulders. "We know where you live, you know."

The crowd laughed, but it was no joke. In previous waves of disorder police homes have been the targets of petrol bombs thrown by Protestants at members of their own faith guarding their own community.

This week they came under assault again from stones and petrol bombs thrown by Protestants who see them as a tool of a distant government in London trying to appease Irish Republican Army guerrillas and Catholics by banning the march route.

Men and women of the RUC dread the "marching season" every summer, the most testing time in the police calendar, when up to 3,000 Orange Order parades are held to proclaim the participants' Britishness before Protestant supporters and Catholic opponents.

Flak jackets are everyday wear for the enforcers of law and Order in Northern Ireland. But the marching season means adding riot helmets, plastic leg protectors, arm guards and heavy boots.

This week's unrest, police say, is intended to stretch the force so brutally with brushfire protests across the province that Annesley caves in and reverses the ban.

It has sucked in not only the 100,000 regular members of the Orange Order but what police call "hangers-on" — Protestant youths who enjoy petrol bombing police jeeps and smashing shop windows.

There are thousands of hangers-on. They do not wear the Orange Order regalia — suits and sashes and bowler hats. They have an unofficial uniform of their own — jeans, plaid shirts, cropped hair and single earrings.

As darkness falls they set barricades ablaze to draw the RUC into the area. Then, from a safe distance, they begin to hurl insults and petrol bombs and bricks.

Thai Prime Minister Faces Mounting Troubles

BANGKOK (Reuter) — Thai Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa faces mounting problems over factionalism in his party and a likely tussle with a coalition partner over military promotions, political analysts said on Thursday.

Banharn's difficulties might become so serious that he could be forced to dissolve Parliament and call a snap election before the end of the year, some analysts said.

One of the most serious rifts in Banharn's Chart Thai (Thai Nation) Party widened this week after party secretary general Snoh Thienthong renewed his efforts to wrest the interior portfolio from the premier, who now holds the job.

Public Health Minister Snoh, who heads a faction within Chart Thai, is one of several senior Chart Thai men who have had made no secret of their desire for the powerful interior post since the government was formed a year ago.

Banharn promised at a party meeting on Tuesday that he would relinquish the interior post in November, but his pledge failed to mollify a number of his party's members.

"It's a promise that's come too late. I doubt the coalition will survive until November," Vithaya Thienthong, Snoh's brother who is also a Chart Thai member of Parliament, told reporters.

Vithaya went on to claim that about 50 of Chart Thai's 92 members of Parliament backed a motion to oust Banharn as party leader. Banharn dismissed the threat to oust him as a joke.

Banharn also faces resentment from a faction of the party after two of its members were left out of a new cabinet line-up announced in May. The two had been criticized in Parliament and in the media over various allegations of impropriety.

As well as the problems within his party, Banharn is likely to face serious disagreements with Minister of Defense Chavalit Yongchaiyudh over armed forces promotions due in September, military sources said.

Chavalit heads Banharn's second-largest coalition partner, the New Aspiration Party, and has long been known to harbor ambitions for Thailand's top political job.

One army general who declined to be identified said Banharn and Chavalit disagreed over who should be promoted to be army chief when the incumbent, General Pramon Phalasil, retires in September.

As well as Pramom, the current heads of the navy and air force as well as the armed forces supreme commander have all reached retirment age and are due to be replaced in the regular September military reshuffle.

Chavalit, who was army chief before entering politics, was widely seen as promoting his supporters to top military posts in last year's reshuffle to establish a power base for his political ambitions in the influential armed forces.

"Lobbying for the army chief job has sharply intensified," said the general.

He predicted that the disagreement between Banharn and Chavalit over who becomes army chief and who gets other top military jobs would erupt in September and lead to Chavalit pulling his party out of Banharn's seven-party coalition.

Perot's Entry Could Complicate White House Race

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — Texas billionaire Ross Perot could be a potent factor in the U.S. presidential race if he joins the fray as he is now hinting, but he would probably not stop President Bill Clinton from winning, analysts say.

Perot, 66, who won 19 percent of the popular vote in the 1992 election, strongly suggested in a television interview on Wednesday that he would run again, this time as nominee of the Reform Party, a new organization he created and is financing.

Asked on CNN's "Larry King Live" if he would accept the party's presidential nomination to run in the November 5 election, Perot said, "If the people want me to, certainly."

That is the same approach he took in 1992.

Current polls suggest Perot would begin the campaign with the support of anywhere from 13 to 20 percent of the electorate. But that is before the maverick businessman begins spending his huge fortune on his campaign.

With Clinton leading Republican Bob Dole by over 15 percentage points in most recent surveys, Perot's entry into the race would likely shave the president's lead a little.

For example, in the most recent gallup poll, Clinton led Dole by 19 points. Add Perot to the mix and the lead would shrink to 16 points in this survey.

A poll this week showed Clinton leading Dole by 16 points, which fell to 11 points with Perot in the race.

"He draws slightly more votes away from Bill Clinton than from Bob Dole, but so long as Clinton maintains a double-digit lead over Dole, Perot will not change the outcome of the race," said Lydia Saad, an analyst with Gallup.

Clinton and his aides sounded relaxed about the prospect of a Perot challenge, saying he might enliven the race.

Dole by contrast sounded glum. "I would hope he wouldn't run," he told radio host Don Imus. "I hope it's going to be sort of a two-person race."

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour has repeatedly said Dole's chances of beating Clinton would shrink considerably if Perot entered the race.

That is because if the race between Clinton and Dole were to become really close, Perot would grab many of the independent votes Dole would need to put him over the top.

"If it's a tight race, Perot starts taking more votes from Dole and less from Clinton," said Karlyn Bowman, a public opinion analyst with the American Enterprise Institute.

"But Perot has a ceiling. I don't see any way of him getting more than 20 percent of the vote," she said.

Before he enters the race, Perot first has to win the nomination of the Reform Party, which is holding a two-part convention next month to choose its nominee.

Former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm said this week he would compete for the Reform Party nomination, if necessary against Perot. But most analysts believe that if Perot wants the nomination of the party he created virtually singlehanded, he will get it.

Polls suggest many of his supporters now are not the same people who voted for him in 1992, when election-day exit polls suggested he took about three Republican votes for every two Democratic and thus helped Clinton oust Republican President George Bush.

Now, polls suggest his supporters are less educated, less affluent and more populist than they were four years ago.

In 1992, Perot spent $70 million, much of it on prime-time, half-hour infommercials in which he delivered economics lectures to voters using graphs and pie charts. His bid included a sudden decision to withdraw from the race at a crucial point in July, followed by a comeback in September.

That added to a reputation for quirky if not downright erratic behavior. He seemed to fear all manner of obscure conspiracies and at one point accused political opponents of planning to disrupt his daughter's wedding.

Some analysts doubt Perot would wield the same clout in 1996. Margaret Tutwiler, a Republican deeply involved in the 1992 campaign, predicted his support would plummet if he ran.

"I don't think he would have the impact and punch of the past. The bloom is off the rose," Tutwiler said.



TOKYO, Japan (July 11): Cambodian First Prime Minister Prince Nordom Ranariddh (R) chats with Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen while the opening speech is being delivered for the First Consultative Group Meeting for Cambodia. Ranariddh stressed in his speech before 16 nations representatives and 6 international groups that his country needs more support.

(AFP PHOTO)

Kobe Quake Victims Still Need Help

TOKYO (AFP) — A year and a half after a killer earthquake devastated Kobe, many residents are still unable to resume normal lives and are in desparate need of official aid, a group of citizens from the area said.

"The situation is still very bad for victims. Their conditions are so bad that I wouldn't be surprised if many of them committed suicide," Makoto Oda, a writer who lives near Kobe, told a news conference here.

The quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale hit Kobe and its vicinity in western Japan on January 17, 1995, killing some 5,500 people almost immediately and destroying more than 200,000 houses and buildings.

"We still hear stories of people jumping in front of trains almost every day. People are killing themselves because they have no hope," said Lee Sang Thea, an ethinc Korean living in Kobe.

Lee told the same news conference that 800 more people had since died due to causes officially acknowleged as linked to the quake. He added that an estimated 2,000 others were suspected to have died from quake-related causes.

Oda, Lee and other activists traveled to Tokyo to campaign for new legislation to provide those who lost homes with official assistance of up to five million yen ($45,500) each to restart their lives.

Police to Curb Leave for Top Officers Before Handover

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong police chiefs are planning to restrict leave for top officers during the handover of the territory to China on July 1, 1997 for fears of trouble, it was reported Friday.

A document issued to senior police officers disclosed that all key operational posts should be fully manned and no leave permitted during the period, particularly at the time of the change of sovereignty around June 30 and July 1 next year, which could require deployment of all officers.

Under the proposal, revealed by the south China Morning Post, officers above and including chief inspector rank should not be allowed to take leave for a period of more than four consecutive days during that period.

Beside the handover, the document also highlighted the need for maximum police presence for a World Bank conference on September 25 next year and the first October 1 — China's National Day — under the Hong kong special administrative region of China.

The document followed a denial by Hong Kong's Police Commissioner Eddie Hui Ki-On that there has been a major exodus of top officers ahead of the territory's return to Chinese rule next year.

Hui sent an internal circular to all officers.